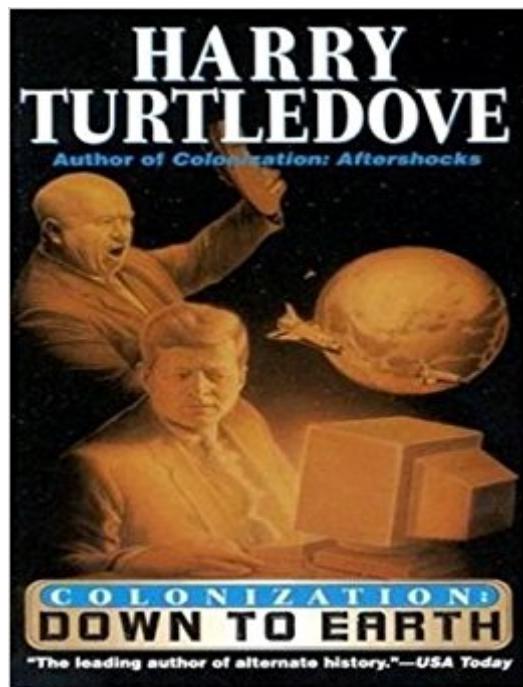


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Colonization: Down To Earth



Synopsis

In 1942, Hitler led the world's most savage military machine. Stalin ruled Russia while America was just beginning to show its strength in World War II. Then, in Harry Turtledove's brilliantly imagined Worldwar saga, an alien assault changed everything. Nuclear destruction engulfed major cities, and the invaders claimed half the planet before an uneasy peace could be achieved. A spectacular tale of tyranny and freedom, destruction and hope, the Colonization series takes us into the tumultuous 1960s, as the reptilian Race ponders its uneasy future. But now a new, even deadlier war threatens. Though the clamoring tribes of Earth play dangerous games of diplomacy, the ultimate power broker will be the Race itself. For the colonists have one option no human can ignore. With a vast, ancient empire already in place, the Race has the power to annihilate every living being on planet Earth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Colonization: Down to Earth marks part two of part two of Harry Turtledove's epic alternate history in which WWII gets interrupted--and violently abridged--by a hostile alien invasion. With some of the same characters introduced in the four-volume Worldwar series and Colonization: Second Contact, the story arc continues through the 1960s, as the Lizards (along with their second fleet, composed not of soldiers but of colonists) continue to grapple with their not-quite-subdued conquest, Tosev 3 (a.k.a. earth). And Turtledove's alt-'60s are not--to say the least--about peace, love, and understanding. Now the reptilian ETs must face off against three world superpowers in an uneasy truce: the United States; Molotov's SSSR; and the psychotic, nuke-wielding Nazis under Himmler.

Elsewhere, the U.K. flirts with fascism, Red China (commanded by none other than Chairman Mao) wages a bloody resistance against its scaly oppressors, and the Arab world does likewise under the guidance of Ayatollah Khomeini. As ever with Turtledove, plot takes precedence over characterizations, but his suspenseful twists and turns don't disappoint. And while Down to Earth proves a bit less martial than its predecessors, the action still satisfies--if nothing else, the bang-up finale is worth the wait. --Paul Hughes --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The alien invasion that transformed the nature of the Second World War into a fight between humans and "Lizards" resulted in a state of uneasy d?tente. Twenty years later, Lizards lay claim to parts of the earth despite a growing state of resistance to their presence. Continuing the story begun in Colonization: Second Contact (LJ 1/99), Turtledove expands on his imaginary history of the 20th century. He demonstrates his talent for crafting drama on a global scale by concentrating on the individual stories that make up the big picture. A good choice for sf collections. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I invested months of my life reading the entire colonization series, I have never done that before. People criticize Ayn Rand for her long books, but Turtledove makes *Atlas Shrugged* look like a small book. The amount of details is incredible, but I agree with others, he needs a better editor. In the end, you'll be fascinated by the aliens and all the different personalities and the political intrigues. I do wish he had less sexual description, I'm far more interested in Hitler, Molotov, Stalin, JFK, Khomeini, than in Yeager getting jiggy with it.

This is the third or fourth time I've read the series. Enjoyed them very much, especially the alt-history slant. Kindle version of this book has a huge amount of typos. At least one page in every three or four with errors or missing words. They must have used a bad scanner to convert the book. Had to read the Kindle version because the audio book narrator changed between this series and the previous one. Could not get through the audio.

Excellent series, and excellent book!

I waited with baited breath to see what would next turn up. And I was not disappointed- there are enough twists at the end of the book to satisfy any fan of O'Henry. Some are predictable, some are

not. It is enjoyable reading. Turtledove can be long-winded at times, and deserves occasional skimming, but he keeps that to a minimum in this book. Every book seems to have repeated information that gets kind of old, such as the original probe's vision of the inhabitants of Earth 800 years ago- but perhaps that is necessary for the reader who picks Book 6 off the bookstore shelf at random. He manages to continue to follow the characters, and keep the myriad of characters clear. Some of the stories are more boring than others. There are times when the sex scenes are gratuitous and too detailed to be helpful. It is unfortunate to see how Rance and Penny have been reduced to drug dealers, when they had such a wonderful relationship 20 years ago. Perhaps that disappointment and lack of character continuity from the original integrity of those characters makes their story rather dull- it would be nice for Turtledove to drop them off the storyboard. Perhaps the greatest part of the story is how well Turtledove shows the cultures interacting. We gain great depths of knowledge into the beliefs and practices of the mythical lizard culture, as well as a greater understanding of human culture, from the helpful outside-observer, godlike position of the lizards. Turtledove goes further to show changes in cultures, as humans and lizards impact each other. And as always, he uses his extensive knowledge of history to accurately predict the "what-if" impact on various societies.

Would you believe online chat rooms during the Cold War era? Of course, these are a product of The Race's technology as the planet Earth becomes their Vietnam/ Afghanistan--a decades-long war they can't seem to win decisively despite superior firepower. We Tosevites (aka "Big Uglies") have a lot more fight in us than they predicted. Anyway, as you'd expect, humans are hacking into The Race's internet posing as their own people, and their chat rooms are just as inane in message content as the ones we know and love here in the real world. An American guerilla couple exiled by The Race to South Africa are facing culture shock over there--in the real world, they'd be Randy Weaver types with racial attitudes to match. They're involved in the "ginger trade"--if you're familiar with the previous book "Second Contact", as well as the four volumes of the "Worldwar" series, you'll know that ginger is The Race's equivalent to cocaine. It's addictive, mood-altering--plus it's aphrodisiac to the point of causing gang rape among otherwise respectable Lizards ("Don't bogart that Canada Dry, mah friend. Pass it over to me"). There's a message in this series' ginger-as-dope concept, I think--at least in terms of this new fave-rave ideology going around nowadays. We've all heard it; "Goodness Gracious, it's ever so hard to fight the War On Drugs (sigh) and anyway we're losing (hand across brow to signify weariness). So why not just legalize it all?" One other thing these ginger-pushers encounter are reptiles imported from The Race's homeworld to be used as livestock.

Their cabdriver/ guide comments that he hears they taste like chicken. My "mind's ear" actually played back the driver's remark in the voice of that Cajun gator hunter in the SUV commercial. Aaa-eee!

This book is part of the second sub-series of Harry Turtldove's alternate history arc in which the earth is attacked by alien invaders during World War II (The first section: "World War" consists of 4 books beginning with the aliens arrival in 1942, The second section: "Colonization" consists of 3 books which take us through the 1960s and the last: Homeward Bound takes us to the 2030s and completes and concludes the story--and does so very satisfactorily too!). This series was a heck of a good read!

Excellent writing. Goes beyond a story to give insight into issues facing characters

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