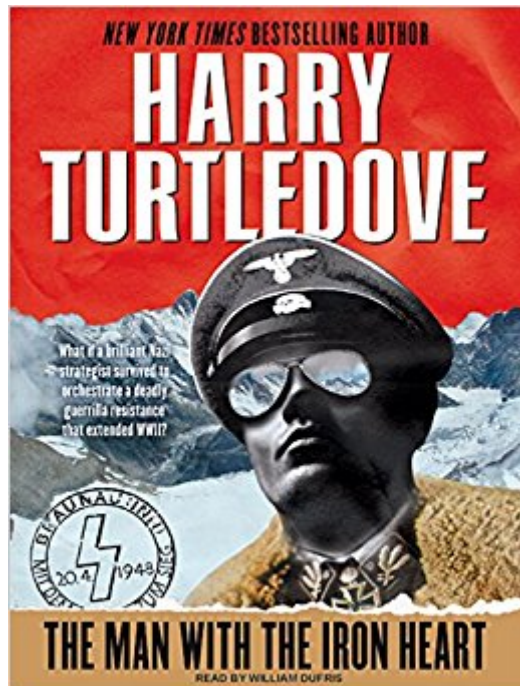




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The Man With The Iron Heart



Synopsis

In the real world, Reinhard Heydrich-the number-two man in the SS and an architect of the holocaust-was assassinated in Czechoslovakia in May 1942. Eulogized by Hitler himself as "The Man with the Iron Heart," Heydrich-also known as "The Butcher" and "The Hangman"-was one of the most ruthless and calculating of the Nazi elite. In *The Man with the Iron Heart*, Heydrich survives that fated assassination attempt only to hatch an insurgency as insidious as anything conceived by Osama bin Laden, designed to keep the German battlefront alive long after the supposed end to hostilities. The Allies thought the war was over, but their problems are just beginning. *The Man with the Iron Heart* is the gripping story of the hunt for Reinhard Heydrich and of the effort to suppress urban guerrilla warfare sixty years before we really run into it in Iraq. Powerful and compelling, *Turtledove* has never been better.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In this disturbing novel, *Turtledove* examines the possible responses of the U.S. Army, Congress and ordinary Americans if they had been confronted with asymmetrical warfare after the official surrender of Nazi Germany. In our time line, number two SS leader Reinhard Heydrich was killed in 1942. In this novel we see what might have happened had Heydrich survived and lived to lead a grassroots resistance movement. Borrowing ideas from their late Japanese allies, the fanatics of the German Freedom Front launch a campaign of suicide bombings, kidnappings and assassinations. The Russians respond with calculated brutality, while the mother of a slain American soldier

pressures President Truman to bring the boys home. The parallels to the current situation in Iraq are obvious but cleverly drawn, leaving readers on both sides of the war debate with much to think about. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
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PRAISE FOR HARRY TURTLEDOVE
Turtledove is the standard-bearer of alternate history.
• "USA Today Settling Accounts: The Grapple [A] magisterial saga of an alternate America . . . a profoundly thoughtful masterpiece of alternate history."
• "Booklist Settling Accounts: Drive to the East First-time readers can jump in and enjoy Turtledove's richly rearranged cultural and political landscape."
• "The Kansas City Star Settling Accounts: Return Engagement Strong, complex characters against a sweeping alt-historical background."
• "Kirkus Reviews Settling Accounts: In at the Death, a New York Times bestseller Turtledove pulls out all the stops in a panoramic display of historical speculation. [He] sets the standard for alternate history and once more proves his worth."
• "Library Journal --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Having read almost every Harry Turtledove alternate history, I consider myself a devoted fan and also accepting of his idiosyncrasies, quirks, and deficiencies. Turtledove repeats and rehashes themes constantly and his alternate history takes shortcuts by using actual history as a template that is obviously transparent. Nevertheless, his style and methods usually work to make a good story. Somehow, he is usually very creative, predictable, fascinating, and plodding, all at the same time. I have previously reviewed several of his books favorably. My opinions often increased as I wrote each review with the realization that I really enjoyed the books and the positives far outweighed the negatives. Unfortunately, that is not the case with *The Man with the Iron Heart*. Turning post World War II Germans into Al Qaeda type fanatics did not work in my imagination. The portrayal of the home front peace movement in the U.S. had no believability either and dragged down the story. Worst of all, the book often bored me and seemed ridiculous at the same time. Perhaps I have reached the saturation point with Turtledove, or more likely, he is tired, rushed, and running out of ideas. Did Turtledove "jump the shark" with this one?

Like most readers of Harry Turtledove I was eagerly awaiting this title for months before it came out. It was exciting to see Turtledove return to European WWII alternate history after his disappointing foray into a triumphant Nazi Germany with *"In The Presence of Mine Enemies."* "The Man with the

"Iron Heart", however, is only a marginally better read than that earlier work. "The Man with the Iron Heart" begins with an interesting premise: What if Reinhard Heydrich had survived the assassination attempt in Prague in 1942 and had gone on to draw up plans for a Nazi guerrilla campaign should the Allies win? The story is very much a parallel of the United States' experience in Iraq, where Nazi die-hards are substituted for Islamic extremists. US citizens, dismayed that the war in Europe continues after the formal surrender, protest President Truman's decisions and demand that the troops be brought back home. Heydrich, hidden away in secret bunkers throughout Germany, directs this insurgency with the same goal in mind. Though generally enjoyable, this novel suffers from many of Turtledove's faults as an author. Many of the characters, including Heydrich, come across as paper thin, mere instruments for moving the story rather than fully fleshed out characters. Turtledove's constant repetition of themes, scenarios, and even dialogue gets tiresome, and makes one wish that in the future he'll employ a better editor. Additionally, many of the themes of this work- suicide bombers, die-hard fanatics, militaries under siege- have all been done before, and arguably better, in Turtledove's "Settling Accounts" novels. One point I found particularly jarring with the whole concept was the idea that Heydrich's survival in 1942 would not have effected the outcome of the war in any other way. Personally, I believe that when things started going south for the Reich in 1942-3 Heydrich would have joined the ranks of the resisters and perhaps been instrumental in ousting Hitler. All that said, I think if you're a Turtledove fan that this book is worth reading. If you're new to Turtledove I'd recommend "The Guns of the South" or "How Few Remain."

For the most part, this novel makes an interesting story out of what started out as a Bush administration talking point. About four years ago, as the insurgency in Iraq started growing, the Bush administration tried to play down the problems in Iraq by drawing a false analogy with post-war resistance in Germany. The comparison was a weak one, since post-war resistance in Germany was minimal and quickly fizzled -- but the talking point apparently motivated Harry Turtledove to wonder what it would have been like in post-war Germany had there been a real resistance. This novel is the result. The resistance efforts and our relatively inept responses are chilling -- all the more so for their plausibility. Less believable is the speed at which the "bring our troops home" movement develops back at home; while I expect that such a movement would have developed over the course of several years, I'm not sure that I believe that it would have started within six months of VE Day, as this novel postulates. Despite this one weakness, "The Man With the Iron Heart" did an excellent job of holding my interest. It also gives the reader plenty to think about -- and not necessarily in a way that will satisfy hard core partisans on either side of the current debate over

Iraq. If you've enjoyed other Harry Turtledove alt-war novels, you'll probably enjoy this one as well. And if you're interested in how we would have dealt with an insurgency in a different time and place, I'd recommend this one as well. On the other hand, if you're looking for a book to confirm your prejudices one way or another about Iraq...well, keep looking.

Good read but it's a little bit long winded. Too many of the same people having the same conversation over and over again. As other mentioned, the werewolf are near perfect in every thing they do -> (Germans smart, US stupid) and it does parallel the US in Iraq quite a bit - but which is totally plausible. If you're a WWII fan and love alternate endings/futures give it a go. No regrets at all.

This is a fairly typical one-off novel by Harry Turtledove. It was a pleasant read and followed a familiar pattern in his writing.

A good read, but not up to his best, or even second best. Not as bad as some reviews as it seems all too possible something like this could have been attempted after the "peace" had been declared. But, well, the response of the average American back home seems to be over embellished and unlikely, while the successes of the German underground really unlikely. All in all, better than other reviews led me to expect, but not as good as many of Turtledove's better efforts.

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