Soviet position between Germany and Japan. The regime’s behavior in the military sphere from 1931 to 1941, including purging the officer corps, was always deeply affected by the terrifying possibility of a two-front war.

Sapir also raises intriguing questions about the value of Marshal Tukhachevskii’s strategic thinking, which touted deep penetration of the enemy’s territory. This idea implied not only excellent organization of command and control, well beyond Soviet capabilities until at least well into the war itself, but also the stockpiling of weapons on a scale which both froze the armed forces for years at certain levels of technology and drained the economy drastically. Then in the face of the German attack it was harder for the Soviet Union to do what had to be done, quickly produce massive amounts of new weapons. That this happened in spite of many problems continues to be one of the most astonishing aspects of the war.

This collection of essays has a slightly jolting feel, perhaps the proper tone given its subject. The reader is whipped from Weber to the battlefront to an essay on how the Soviets wrote about the war, a useful and cogent survey by Von Hagen, to issues of gender and work in Germany covered by Mary Nolan. In this last piece, too, although the questions raised are profound and worthy of much more investigation, the subjects are absolutely voiceless until the very end, where Nolan cites Alf Lüdtke’s work on letters home from German soldiers on the Eastern Front. Like their Soviet counterparts, German bureaucrats never come to life.

Stalinism and Nazism thus might be best located in “regime” or even leadership studies. Suny and Kershaw sum up the chaotic ways in which Stalin and Hitler ruled, and every other contributor at least touches on this subject. More discussion of the interaction between rulers and ruled, a la Solomon or older works like Joseph Berliner’s on managers, would have helped illuminate how people figured in it all and how things got done or did not. Nothing, especially power, was total in either of these dictatorships.

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As the title indicates, Carl Van Dyke’s book examines the Soviet invasion of Finland, 1939-1940, which he says represents “the last major military operation conducted by the Red Army before the Nazi onslaught in 1941.” [p. xi]. This “Winter War” was the first of two Russo-Finnish wars fought during World War II; the second war, called the “Continuation War,” took place from 1941 to 1944. After the German invasion of Poland in September 1939, Stalin began to fear a subsequent German invasion by way of Finnish territory. He thus claimed that the USSR needed Finland’s Karelian Isthmus as a buffer zone, since it was only forty kilometers from the Soviet city of Leningrad. Stalin demanded that Finland cede this territory. The Finns refused. Thus, at 6:50 a.m.-
on November 30, the Leningrad Military District under Meretsov's command began its systematic artillery and aerial bombardment of targets in Finland without issuing a formal declaration of war. [p. 44]

Van Dyke attempts to document the day-to-day experience of the Red Army and explain its poor performance during this initial invasion of Finland. He looks at how the Red Army attempted to relearn the techniques of modern warfare lost during Stalin's purge of the officer corps during the late 1930s. The intended result is "a more highly defined picture of the Red Army's wartime experience," including the creation of the Northwestern Front, Tomoshenko's willingness to experiment with directive control and borrow foreign tactical techniques, and Stalin's joint convocation of the Party, state, and military leadership to reexamine the war effort both during and after the war. [p. 224]

The book also touches on other aspects, including Molotov's initiation of "demonstrative diplomacy" on October 1939; the genesis of the proxy Finnish People's Republic in mid-November; and the border provocations on the Karelian Isthmus and Rybachii Peninsula in late November, which were signs of Stalin's preparation for a preventive war. Dyke claims that "the responsibility for both the failure of the negotiations and the subsequent invasion rest with Stalin and those political figures in his immediate entourage who shared his ideological preconceptions." [p. 222]

The last three chapters are perhaps the most interesting. Chapter 3 illustrates the High Command's determination to understand the nature of the army's problems as the war progressed into January 1940. Chapter 4 illustrates the Red Army's rather incompetent implementation of the new doctrine based in part on Deep Battle tactics with adapted Imperial Russian and German First World War doctrine. After two-and-a-half more months of heavy fighting, the Red Army still could not defeat the Finnish army, despite the presence of a new commander and massive reinforcements. However, it did manage to break through the Finnish fortification known as the Mannerheim Line (named after Carl Gustaf Mannerheim who led the Finnish resistance).

Chapter 5 discusses the lessons of the war. These include the fact that the army needed to reform in nearly every aspect, but especially its doctrine, training, and organization. Van Dyke concludes that doctrinal change was the key to the turnaround in Soviet fortunes in the war with Finland, and that the war was not as great a failure as the common wisdom has it because it pointed the way to reforms that would guide the Soviet army to victory in the war with Nazi Germany.

This last argument would be more convincing if Dyke had described more specifically which reforms the Soviet military actually made and how they led to victory in 1945. Moreover, in his account of all the problems and setbacks the Russians faced during the Winter War, Dyke himself gives the impression that the Red Army lost the war. He might have explained that, in fact Finland was forced to sign a peace treaty in March 1940, agreeing to give up the southern part of the Karelian Peninsula, where 12 percent of the Finnish population lived. This area made up a tenth of Finland's territory and included Lake