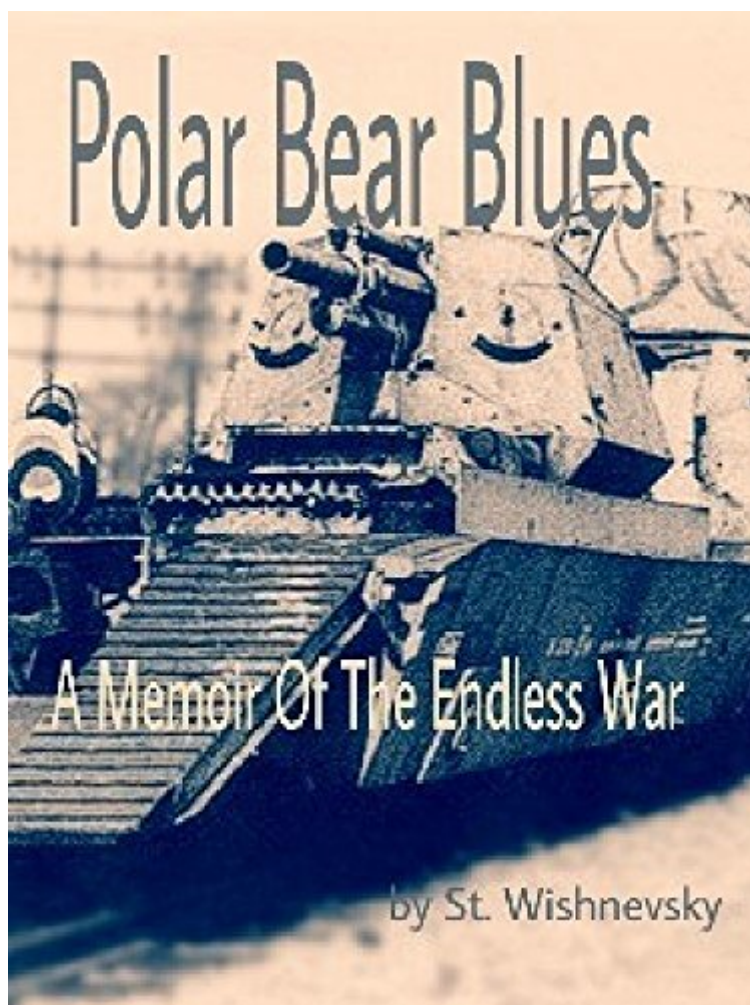


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Polar Bear Blues: A Memoir Of The Endless War (The Endless War. Book 1)



Synopsis

An Alternative History of a world where WWI has never ended, is still dragging on in 1930. Miles Kapusta is exiled from an increasingly totalitarian USA to China, to Port Arthur, where exiles and misfits of all types are fighting the Germans, the Reds, several factions of Chinese warlords and others for possession of the Trans Siberian Railroad.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An interesting and generally well-written book. The alternate history element is well written and presented enough that its obvious shortcomings (and there are many, one that sticks out for me as both an Australian and a Historian is that there is No. Way. Whatever. that Australia would become part of a Japanese Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere ... they would ally even with the rather nasty US first. Or, more likely, paper over cracks with the UK somehow. Ally with Japan ... Never. Ever. Ever.). The combat scenes are reasonably well written. The characters are mostly believable on an individual level, though the ease with which some (all) of the higher commanders accept such things as accepting women (including lesbians), non-whites, Mexicans and Asians in combat roles and promoting them to high rank given the explicitly nasty KKK and right wing southern dominated dictatorship back in the CONUS, is not particularly believable ... but I was prepared to accept it on

the basis that the story was relatively well written, and you may as well (if you care one way or the other). Some of the assumptions about the wider strategic situation and the conduct of war operations are also a little or a lot sketchy or dubious (especially the massive dominance of German U-Boats in the Atlantic and elsewhere vs the almost entirely ineffectual US fleets ... which flies in the face of technical reality) but, since these things tend to happen 'off screen' and are only reported as the result of radio intercepts, I'm prepared to let them slide as well. I didn't notice any obvious spelling or grammatical errors ... which doesn't mean there aren't any. I wasn't *looking* for such errors, but if they were there to story was interesting and well paced enough to mean I didn't notice them. Overall, sorta like Harry Harrison's 'Stars and Stripes' trilogy ... but in a much nastier and darker universe.

Having exhausted about every book on alt military history over the last near 20 years (after being an officer with a great interest in history), I can honestly say this book is a first. Don't go in with any preconceived notions. Most stories begin with a known event. While this does as well (in the broadest sense), it truly is like looking into a possible alt universe. Can't wait for #2.

If you are a fan of alternative military history, you will enjoy this book. Author is well versed in history and military TOE of the period. Great story line and characters. Looking forward to Book II.

I didn't like the writing style, at first, but it grew on me. I got a bit lost at times, but in spite of my reservations I came to enjoy this read. The action was non-stop, the author knowledgeable, and an alt-history premise I have never seen. Very original and I eagerly await the continuing story.

I liked the book and am looking forward to the next installment. The premise is intriguing (a dystopian America set in the thirties where WW1 has never ended), the protagonists are interesting (human flaws, but likable and we root for them), and we see glimpses of an America that might have happened. But, there are some disappointments. Got the sense that Wishnevsky hurried too much while writing the book. Numerous typos that distract (hopefully, they will be fixed in the next edition). The main problem though is that some situations are created just to tell a story - the situation is just plain implausible. Spoiler Alert! One example - the German forces that attack at the end of the book are said to have driven from Iran to Vladivostok in hundreds of trucks to escape enemy forces. That is a distance of over 4,000 miles across mountain ranges, hostile forces, deserts and minimal (at best) roads. I doubt that many modern cars could make that trip, let alone

30's era vehicles. And where did they get the gas to drive that far? Got the sense that Wishnevsky was trying to wrap up the book; needs a rework to live up to the initial promise of the book.

Editing and proof reading needs a little help. Very interesting twist on Patton, Hoover and Goering. The author gets a thumbs up on this story.

Nicely written, but thin on description. I wondered why these people who are essentially exiles were willing to fight as they did. But it made for an interesting story.

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