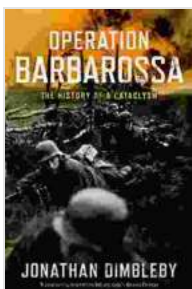


# Operation Barbarossa: The History of a Cataclysm

Operation Barbarossa was the code name for Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union, which began on June 22, 1941. The invasion was the largest military operation in history, involving more than 3 million German troops and over 2 million Soviet troops. The invasion was a disaster for the Soviet Union, which lost millions of soldiers and civilians. The invasion also led to the Holocaust, in which the Nazis murdered millions of Jews, Roma, and other minorities.

The planning for Operation Barbarossa began in December 1940, when Hitler issued Directive No. 21, which outlined the goals of the invasion. The directive called for the destruction of the Soviet Union as a military and economic power, and the establishment of a new German empire in the east. The invasion was to be carried out in three phases: the first phase would involve the capture of the Baltic states, Belarus, and Ukraine; the second phase would involve the capture of Moscow and Leningrad; and the third phase would involve the conquest of the Caucasus and Central Asia.



## Operation Barbarossa: The History of a Cataclysm

by Jonathan Dimbleby

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 34702 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 588 pages  
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The invasion began on June 22, 1941, at 3:00 AM. German troops crossed the border into the Soviet Union at multiple points, and quickly advanced deep into Soviet territory. The Soviet Union was caught off guard by the invasion, and its troops were quickly overwhelmed. By the end of the first day of the invasion, the Germans had advanced over 100 miles into Soviet territory.

The Soviet Union fought back fiercely, but the Germans continued to advance. By the end of July, the Germans had captured Minsk, Kiev, and Smolensk. In September, the Germans reached the outskirts of Moscow. The Battle of Moscow was one of the bloodiest battles in history, and it resulted in the deaths of over 1 million Soviet soldiers. The Germans were eventually forced to retreat from Moscow, but they remained in control of much of the Soviet Union.

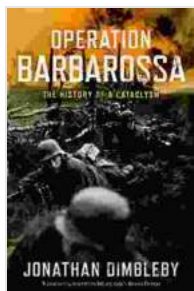
The invasion of the Soviet Union was a major turning point in World War II. It led to the deaths of millions of people, and it also led to the Holocaust. The invasion also had a profound impact on the Soviet Union, which was forced to rebuild its economy and its military after the war.

## **The Legacy of Operation Barbarossa**

The legacy of Operation Barbarossa is complex and controversial. Some historians argue that the invasion was a necessary step in the defeat of Nazi Germany. Others argue that the invasion was a war of aggression that

led to the deaths of millions of innocent people. The debate over the legacy of Operation Barbarossa is likely to continue for many years to come.

Regardless of one's views on the legacy of Operation Barbarossa, there is no doubt that it was one of the most significant events in world history. The invasion led to the deaths of millions of people, and it also had a profound impact on the course of World War II.



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