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Review of the book *The great patriotic war of the Soviet Union, 1941-45: A documentary reader*

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Hill, Alexander. **The great patriotic war of the Soviet Union, 1941-45: a documentary reader.** Routledge, 2009. 348p bibl index ISBN 9780714657127, \$170.00

Hill (Univ. of Calgary) has arranged this book in 12 chapters, patterned on a 12-week seminar covering the Eastern Front during WW II. He provides both a thorough study of each historical topic (e.g., "Barbarossa," "The Siege of Leningrad"), and numerous excerpts from 169 primary documents, which come from both unpublished archival sources and published collections. Unfortunately, full bibliographic information is not given in the text when the documents are presented (sometimes the source lists only a name and date), so one must consult the bibliography, which is arranged by category (e.g., "Published documents in Russian," "Memoirs in Russian") for more information. The author is well versed in both the primary and secondary literature, and other features of the volume include a "further reading" guide for each chapter, a chronology of key events (1917-1945), and a glossary of terms and acronyms/abbreviations. The volume is designed to be used in conjunction with either David Glantz and Jonathan House's *When Titans Clashed: How the Red Army Stopped Hitler* (CH, May'96, 33-5274), or Evan Mawdsley's *Thunder in the East: The Nazi-Soviet War, 1941-1945* (2005). This work helps to fill a gap in the literature by making Soviet wartime documents available to a wide audience in English translation, but its high price, given that it is meant to supplement another text, will make it a non-mandatory purchase for most libraries. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*J. A. Drobnicki, York College, CUNY*