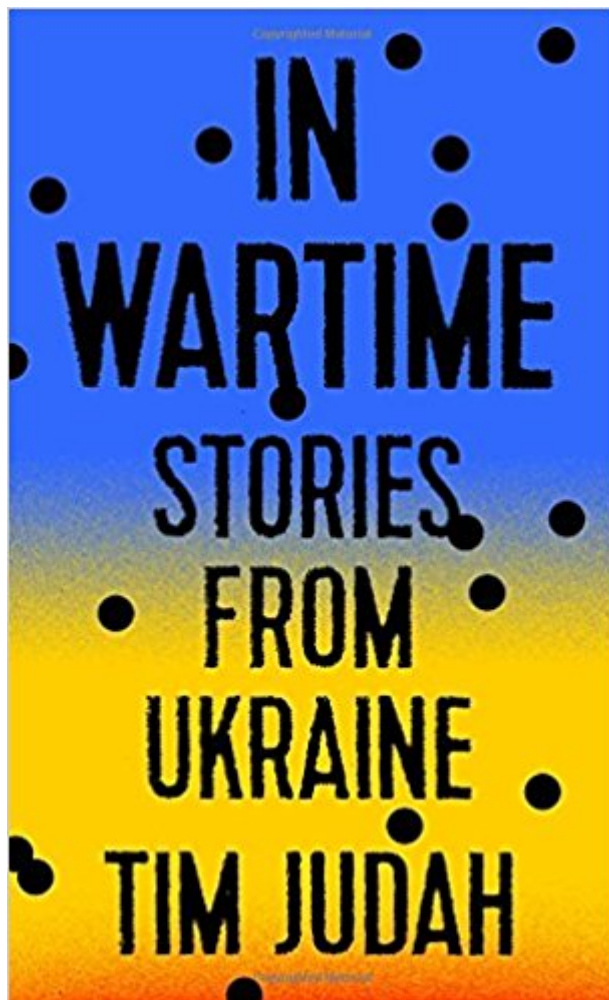


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# In Wartime: Stories From Ukraine



## Synopsis

From one of the finest journalists of our time comes a definitive, boots-on-the-ground dispatch from the front lines of the conflict in Ukraine. Ever since Ukraine's violent 2014 revolution, followed by Russia's annexation of Crimea, the country has been at war. Misinformation reigns, more than two million people have been displaced, and Ukrainians fight one another on a second front—the crucial war against corruption. With *In Wartime*, Tim Judah lays bare the events that have turned neighbors against one another and mired Europe's second-largest country in a conflict seemingly without end. In Lviv, Ukraine's western cultural capital, mothers tend the graves of sons killed on the other side of the country. On the Maidan, the square where the protests that deposed President Yanukovich began, pamphleteers, recruiters, buskers, and mascots compete for attention. In Donetsk, civilians who cheered Russia's President Putin find their hopes crushed as they realize they have been trapped in the twilight zone of a frozen conflict. Judah talks to everyone from politicians to poets, pensioners, and historians. Listening to their clashing explanations, he interweaves their stories to create a sweeping, tragic portrait of a country fighting a war of independence from Russia—twenty-five years after the collapse of the USSR.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Essential for anyone who wants to understand events in Ukraine and what they portend for the West. . . . Mr. Judah has written the first important book about the war in Ukraine, and it should

be on the shelf of every diplomat and journalist shipping out to the region. •The Wall Street Journal• "Vividly clear. . . . A portrait of what it's like living during wartime. . . . Judah gives a very helpful overview of Ukraine's systematic economic difficulties. . . . Brave, thoughtful, self-effacing, and effective. •William T. Vollmann, Bookforum• Judah's book is full of detailed reporting from both Western and Eastern Ukraine •he covered the conflict with Russia for The New York Review of Books• and although he sympathizes with the attempts to strengthen the government in Kiev and repel Russian aggression, his book offers a nuanced portrait of people on all sides of the conflict. •Isaac Chotiner, Slate• "Rich and beautiful. . . . Deep, fastidious, and detailed. . . . Judah articulately and comprehensively explains what happened in the region during World War II, and the important connection between history and present-day violence. •The Chicago Tribune• "An important new book. . . . Fast-paced and very topical. . . . Readers won't forget the pathos and violence Tim Judah has described. •Christian Science Monitor• "Judah writes in taut, informative language. . . . Instilling a lasting impression of a nation at once divided in loyalties and in the throes of a war •a real and somewhat bizarre one •a quarter-century after independence from the Soviet Union. •The Minneapolis StarTribune• "A lively blend of research and personal narratives. •Las Vegas Weekly• "It is no small trick to convey what life is like for ordinary Ukrainians. . . . Judah succeeds by traveling to these often out-of-the-way communities, poking around neighborhoods and museums, starting conversations with the people he meets. . . . He reveals the links between the current conflict and the history lying beneath the emotions and memories. •Foreign Affairs• "A fascinating and often grim portrait of Ukraine . . . . Judah offers a compassionate human view of these conflicts, mixing personal stories, history, politics, and reportage . . . . This special and timely book will provide lay readers with an apt introduction to Ukraine, and specialists will appreciate its atypical yet enlightening approach. •Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)• "A compelling and acute piece of contemporary reportage. •David Edgar, The London Review of Books• "Haunting . . . Timely . . . Judah concentrates skilfully and affectingly on the human cost of manoeuvres in Ukraine. He seldom makes his own thoughts and opinions seem intrusive, instead letting his eloquent and compassionate subjects give a far greater insight into the horror and privation." •Alexander Larman, The Observer• "The war in Ukraine was fought at the height of postmodernity, and at first images trumped words and propaganda overwhelmed reality. Yet with time it was a few journalists, the

handful of women and men who were willing to travel, learn, and report, who transformed the two dimensions of the screen into the three of life, the clichs of governments into the faces of people. Tim Judah, one of the best of them, does not tell us what to think about war but instead teaches us how: with courage, humility, attention to human detail, and admirable historical intuition." — Timothy Snyder "The strength of Judah's *In Wartime* lies in the depth, range and balance of his reportage and his eye for telling details." — Tony Barber, *Financial Times* "A kaleidoscopic portrait . . . Judah Looks at the present — what Ukraine looks and feels like now. He criss-crosses the country from the Russian-speaking east to the Ukrainian-speaking west." — Marcus Tanner, *The Independent* "Visceral, gripping, heart breaking and often shocking, based on interviews with witnesses and victims on the ground, *In Wartime* is both astute political analysis and vivid war reportage of what's really happening in the dirty war in Ukraine by a veteran observer of the Balkan wars who truly understands the complexities and nuances of the wars on Europe's peripheries." — Simon Sebag Montefiore "Tim Judah has written a timely account of life in Ukraine . . . A vivid, human portrait of a society drained not just by war but by years of corruption." — Annabelle Chapman, *The Prospect* "Judah has carved out a reputation as one of Europe's best writers on the Balkans. His job description should be something like History Wars Correspondent." — Roger Boyes, *The Times* "Tim Judah has got a lot closer to the war in eastern Ukraine than most western reporters — close enough to be able to convey vividly to readers the smells and sounds of such strange, screwed-up oddities as the Donetsk People's Republic, the Russian-backed splinter state. His experience of the Balkan Wars of the 1990s helped Judah spot this war as it mutated from malignant propaganda into blood-spattered reality. As a reporter, he excels at letting the Ukrainians themselves do the talking. His own sardonic undertone perfectly suits his subject." — Niall Ferguson

Tim Judah is a reporter for *The Economist*. A graduate of the London School of Economics and of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Judah worked for the BBC before covering the Balkan wars for *The Times* and other publications. He covered the war in Ukraine for *The New York Review of Books*. He lives in London with his wife and five children.

Great book. I have travelled to Ukraine over 40 times the past 8 years, many times to Lugansk. Left

Donetsk on Jan 2014, never to return to the East. You described the war and it's buildup so accurately. I love Ukraine and it's people. It is so frustrating watching it's leaders rape and pillage this beautiful country.

As Judah points out there are many good books regarding Ukrainian history. Instead of writing another, he focused on interactions with Ukrainians throughout the country. How you view Ukrainian history depends on where you grew up, the language you are most comfortable with, religion, and so on. A good book about a complicated country with a tragic past, a challenging present, and a promising future.

Not quite what I expected but did solidify my view that the United States should be very careful in deciding when and how to aid the Ukraine government.

Not only informative but it's well-written as well. It puts the conflict into a current and a historical perspective.

A good history/explanation for the situation Ukraine finds herself in today.

I waited for this book for months. Now that I have it i is probably the best book I have read about Ukraine/Russia conflict. It gives a very good explanation about how the conflict started, what is going on, and where it will go plus the photos are good. If anyone wants to know about this war, this book is about as good as it gets.

This book tells the stories of today's Ukraine. It is not a travel guide and not meant to be such. It opens wide todays struggle in the Ukraine for their freedom and right to live in freedom from Russia and Putin and to become part of Europe. Russia has so long been their helpful hand but very few in Ukraine remember the Holordor of Joseph Stalin. A time when the Russians sucked all the food from Ukraine in Russian in order to get rid of the Ukrainian people. Today Russia uses Ukraine as a door to invade Europe. They have 40K troops ready to walk across the Ukraine Border into Ukraine. These are hardened Russian troops that have already been there and know it well.

In this book, author Tim Judah gives a vivid picture of the political, economic situation faced by the people of Ukraine, gleaned from interviews with a wide range of Ukrainian people, young and old,

from all walks of life. Near the beginning of the book, Judah sets the tone with a heartrending description of a man killed in war, followed by these words about the Lychakiv cemetery: "Much of the history of Lviv and western Ukraine is here... Every tomb tells a story... Over here are the men of the Austro-Hungarian army who died fighting the Russians in the First World War. Up here are the Poles who died fighting the Ukrainians when it was over, and next to them are their Ukrainian enemies. Here are the people murdered by the Soviets in 1941. Here are the Soviets who died fighting the Nazis. Here is the monument to the local Ukrainian SS division. Here are the other Ukrainians who fought with the Nazis, against them, against the Poles again and then against the Soviets." And now the new sections for a new generation: here are the heroes of Lviv who were killed fighting the regime of President Viktor Yanukovych during the Maidan revolution of 2014. And here... are eighteen graves piled high with wreaths..." and so on. As Judah takes us through the various areas of the Ukraine, the deeper story emerges, aided by haunting photos and numerous maps. We learn about so many different ethnic groups trying to deal with each other; political pressures, a fair amount of manipulation, shocking violence, and widespread corruption. Judah does a particularly fine job discussing complex, many faceted issues of identity among the various factions; differing attitudes toward Russia and Putin, problems of shrinking populations and shifting boundaries; the particular pressures of each area; and at times, surprising ambivalence about the breakup of the USSR (and even toward memories of Stalin) and its aftermath. Judah seems particularly suited to this project because he covered the Balkan Wars, and he is quick to point out similarities between these two perplexing situations. This is not an easy book to get through: there are many, profoundly disturbing stories of horrendous brutality, and deepset problems that are ongoing. Though I felt I had to read it slowly, I felt that I learned a great deal about that part of the world, the nature of war itself, and the ways human beings either get along or don't... also about the way people cope with and think about such difficult conditions. Not a light, cozy read, but a most valuable one. Highly recommended.

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