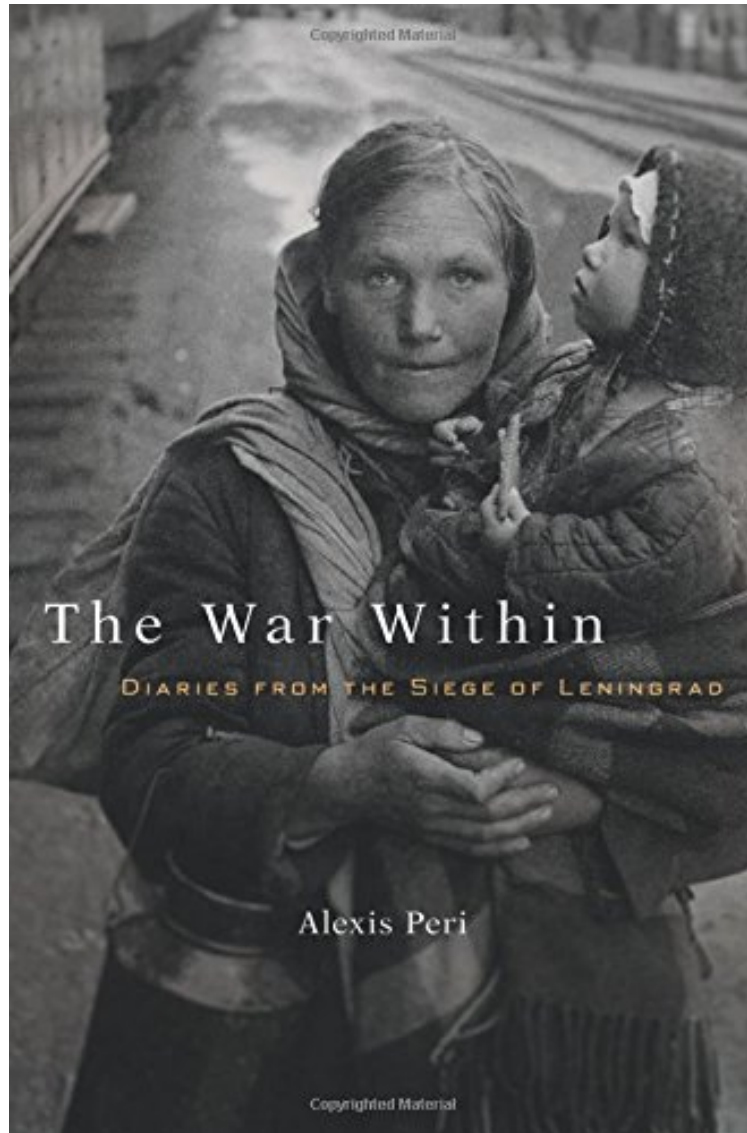


(Download) The War Within: Diaries from the Siege of Leningrad

## The War Within: Diaries from the Siege of Leningrad

*Professor Alexis Peri*

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#659545 in Books Peri Alexis 2017-01-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.10 x 1.30 x 6.30l, .0 #File Name: 0674971558384 pagesThe War Within Diaries from the Siege of Leningrad | File size: 27.Mb

**Professor Alexis Peri : The War Within: Diaries from the Siege of Leningrad** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The War Within: Diaries from the Siege of Leningrad:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Superb insight into memoiristsBy CustomerSpell-binding, well-researched, and highly sensitive to the diarists---a must read for academics and lay history buffs alike.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. What Leningraders really thought.By DRB"The War Within" is an account of the true thoughts and feelings of the people of Leningrad as they experienced the dreadful siege from 1941 to 1944. Based

upon 125 unpublished diaries of residents of Leningrad which have recently become accessible, it differs considerably from the official accounts, which have always selected and emphasized the heroic aspects of the situation. Under the terrible stress and anxiety of starvation, bombardment, isolation, and the death of a large portion of the population, these individuals considered at the deepest levels their relationships to neighbors, family, government, life - everything. The book is a remarkable study of the human condition. Prof. Peri writes with grace and verve. While treating the diarists with sympathy and insight, she reports on the often harrowing events and reflections unflinchingly. It is fascinating, and thought-provoking, reading. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. perspective of those blokadniki who endured??By Hung-Tak Lee This is an attempt to write down the dire situation the blokadniki or the blockade-sufferers found themselves in during the Leningrad siege. Despite the rather detailed descriptions on the life of the blokadniki, one gets a bit queasy to find Peri too much theorizing on social difference based on the bath-house and psychologizing on the bread-line. Why not write down what the many diarists had put down in their "innocuous" diaries, staying away from hypotheses rather untenable? Verbatim quotations are sometimes better than theories not supported by facts in the everyday life of the blokadniki.

In September 1941, two and a half months after the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union, the German Wehrmacht encircled Leningrad. Cut off from the rest of Russia, the city remained blockaded for 872 days, at a cost of almost a million civilian lives, making it one of the longest and deadliest sieges in modern history. *The War Within* chronicles the Leningrad blockade from the perspective of those who endured the unendurable. Drawing on 125 unpublished diaries written by individuals from all walks of Soviet life, Alexis Peri tells the tragic story of how citizens struggled to make sense of a world collapsing around them. Residents recorded in intimate detail the toll taken on minds and bodies by starvation, bombardment, and disease. For many, diary writing became instrumental to survival? a tangible reminder of their humanity. The journals also reveal that Leningraders began to reexamine Soviet life and ideology from new, often critical perspectives. Leningrad's party organization encouraged diary writing, hoping the texts would guide future histories of this epic battle. But in a bitter twist, the diarists became victims not only of Hitler but also of Stalin. The city's isolation from Moscow made it politically suspect. When the blockade was lifted in 1944, Kremlin officials censored publications describing the ordeal and arrested hundreds of Leningrad's wartime leaders. Many were executed. Diaries? now dangerous to their authors? were concealed in homes, shelved in archives, and forgotten. *The War Within* recovers these lost narratives, shedding light on one of World War II's darkest episodes.

Vivid, true, and magnificently crafted. Peri has peeled away layer after layer of the human record to its core? physical, mental, spiritual. (Nina Tumarkin, author of *Lenin Lives!*) By mining an extraordinarily rich treasure trove of unpublished diaries, Peri moves beyond relating what happened during the blockade and instead explains how Leningraders made sense of it. Sophisticated, nuanced, and extremely well written, *The War Within* is a major contribution to our understanding of the mentality of Leningrad's civilians during the blockade and the role that diaries played in Soviet history. (Richard Bidlack, coauthor of *The Leningrad Blockade, 1941-1944: A New Documentary History from the Soviet Archives*) In the winter of 1941-1942, civilians in blockaded Leningrad lived on the very edge of death. Conveying their life stories and struggles with great sensitivity, Peri draws on more than a hundred largely unpublished diaries to explore how the external crisis provoked an internal crisis that destabilized Leningraders' fundamental understandings of themselves, the Soviet Union, and the world. (Lisa A. Kirschenbaum, author of *The Legacy of the Siege of Leningrad, 1941-1995: Myth, Memories, and Monuments*) Diaries from the Stalin era tend to be analyzed in numbers too small to provide more than a glimpse of everyday life. Here, however, Peri has assembled over a hundred of these rare records, which allows for unprecedented insight into the trials and tribulations that ordinary people experienced during one of their greatest ordeals: the 900-day siege of Leningrad. This is a truly groundbreaking study. (David Brandenberger, author of *Propaganda State in Crisis: Soviet Ideology, Indoctrination, and Terror under Stalin, 1927-1941*) In devastating intimacy, the diaries [written during the siege of Leningrad] disclose the private struggles of individuals to extract meaning from unimaginably dire circumstances, as well as the philosophical and psychological approaches they brought to bear on their suddenly unrecognizable lives and their own disappearing bodies... This is a People's History of the siege, realized at last, and as such should be added to the short list of essential reading on the subject. (Debra Dean Washington Independent of Books 2017-01-12) Stand aside, Homer. I doubt whether even the author of the *Iliad* could have matched Alexis Peri's account of the 872-day siege which Leningrad endured after Hitler's army encircled the city in September 1941... [A] magnificent narrative. (Jonathan Mirsky *The Spectator* 2016-12-28) From 1941 until 1944, the city of Leningrad was under siege from Germany and Finland for a total of 872 days; almost one million citizens perished during that time. Peri takes readers on a terrifying journey of the turmoil faced by the residents of Leningrad via reviewing and synthesizing 125 unpublished diaries from those imprisoned in the city, the Blokadnik or Siege of Leningrad survivors... Readers interested in the effects of a military siege on individuals will find much to digest here. Moreover, history buffs will learn new information about the people of Leningrad during this terrible time. (Jason L. Steagall *Library Journal* 2016-12-01) [An] important new book... Peri's book is not a tale; it is arranged thematically rather than chronologically, and

it does not reprint any diary in full. But oh, these voices from a frozen world of starvation and fear! They will haunt you. It is time they were heard. (Laurie Hertzler Star Tribune 2017-02-03)The battle for Leningrad lasted 1,127 days; the city was under siege for 900 of them. Between 1.6 million and two million Soviet citizens died, 800,000 of them civilians?40 percent of the city's prewar population. (As Peri points out, the overall death toll approximates the total number of members of the U.S. military who died in war between 1776 and 1975.) Leningrad residents of all types?from factory foremen to teachers, party workers to professional writers?kept diaries during the ordeal. Peri searches through 125 of them to capture how the nightmare deconstructed the writers' prior realities and altered their sense of humanity. Her portrait is a sensitive, at times almost poetic examination of their emotions and disordered mental states. It both contrasts with and complements the equally accurate official Soviet portrait of a stalwart population standing firm in the face of evil and in defense of Soviet ideals. Peri makes plain that even though the diarists endured the total transformation of their fundamental sense of reality, their social relationships, and the nature of their social order, most of them did not become alienated from the values and basic outlook of the Soviet system. (Robert Legvold Foreign Affairs 2017-03-01)In this fascinating analysis of the experience of average Soviet citizens during the Siege of Leningrad, Peri investigates the everyday experiences of the blokadniki, those who survived for over 900 days during the German blockade of the city during WW II. Using 125 unpublished diaries, [Peri] provides a unique perspective on those who lived inside the 'ring' created by the German siege. (R. W. Lemmons Choice 2017-07-01)A powerful book...In a groundbreaking history, Alexis Peri has sifted through scores of previously unpublished diaries that have lain largely forgotten for decades in Russian archives. As a result, we now have a far fuller picture of the siege. It may make disturbing reading, but these journals personalize the catastrophe far better than any conventional history. (Guy Walters Daily Mail 2017-06-17)Synthesize[s] dozens of accounts to powerful and illuminating effect...A fascinating, insightful and nuanced work that incorporates much fresh research. Particularly rewarding is the close attention Peri pays to language. (Anna Reid Times Literary Supplement 2017-08-04)About the AuthorAlexis Peri is Assistant Professor of History at Boston University.