

## Alternate History (Alt Hist) Recommended List 2017 by Kenneth Hite and Dana Lombardy

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Great alternate history online shop and the annual Sidewise Awards for Alternate History: <http://uchronia.net/>

**Uchronia: The Alternate History List** is a bibliography of over 3300 novels, stories, essays and other printed material involving the "what ifs" of history. The **Sidewise Awards** were created in 1995 and recognize the Best Short-Form Alternate History (under 60,000 words) and Best Long-Form Alternate History (longer than 60,000 words).

*[What-ifs are] ...counterfactual reasoning—it extrapolates consequences from choices and events that did not happen, in order to see differences from the actual historical events. This sort of thinking tends to make historians very uneasy. Historians are trained to analyze what actually happened, and speculation that runs down other paths can, if taken too far, verge on fantasy. But counterfactual reasoning, if only in a disguised form, is something that all historians do. To make a claim that a particular decision was wise is necessarily to make a simultaneous claim, either implicit or explicit, that some **other** decision would have produced a worse outcome. To condemn a policy as foolish or short-sided requires a claim that some **other** policy would have produced better results.*

David R. Stone, in his Introduction to **The Russian Army in the Great War** (Univ. Press of Kansas, 2015)

Ken's Alt Hist games:

**GURPS INFINITE WORLDS, DAY AFTER RAGNAROK**

Some of Dana's recent games that include what-if scenarios, alternate orders-of-battle, etc.:

**ASSASSINATION IN SARAJEVO!, RUSSIA'S GREAT WAR 1914**, and **ON TO PARIS!** mini-games published with **World War One Illustrated** magazine

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Ken Hite's suggested Alt Hist book list:

Poul Anderson (**MIDSUMMER TEMPEST, TIME PATROL**)

John Crowley (**GREAT WORK OF TIME**)

Philip K. Dick (**MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE**)

Michael Flynn (**IN THE COUNTRY OF THE BLIND**, "Introduction to Cliology"—*Cliology* is the science that seeks to understand and predict the course of history—from Clio, the Greek muse of history)

John M. Ford (**THE DRAGON WAITING**)

Howard Waldrop (various, including "Ike at the Mike" and "Custer's Last Jump"—Ken describes Waldrop's work as "magnificent")

Ken and Dana both recommend:

Robert Cowley, editor (**WHAT IF? and WHAT IF? 2—The World's Foremost Military Historians Imagine What Might Have Been**)

Peter G. Tsouras (author or editor of many military histories, including nearly a dozen Alt Hist titles)

Harry Turtledove (a dozen different series, blending history, fantasy and science fiction; also **THE BEST ALTERNATE HISTORY STORIES OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY** co-edited with Martin H. Greenberg)

Dana also strongly recommends:

Harold C. Deutsch and Dennis E. Showalter, editors (**IF THE ALLIES HAD FALLEN—Sixty Alternate Scenarios of World War II**)

Shannon Selin (**NAPOLEON IN AMERICA**)—"Imagining the Boundaries of History" <http://shannonselin.com/>

Winston Churchill (**THE WORLD CRISIS 1911-1918—Volume 1**, Chapter XIII has an evaluation and speculation on alternatives for the attack on the Dardanelles; and Churchill's "If Lee Had Not Won the Battle of Gettysburg" in **IF IT HAD HAPPENED OTHERWISE**, edited by J.C. Squire)