

Alternate Histories

Read about what might have transpired if historical events of our past had happened differently. What if the Confederacy *had* won the Civil War? What if Germany *had* won World War II?



The Best Alternate History Stories of the 20th Century

This collection of "what if" stories, edited by master Harry Turtledove, offers alternate versions of actual historical events in an anthology with works by Kim Stanley Robinson, Greg Bear, Ward Moore, Gregory Benford, and Susan Schwartz. Some pieces are concerned with time travel or alternate realities, while others are straightforward short stories set during historical times. (Note: this book is filed by title under "Best.")

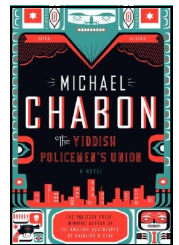


Emperor by Stephen Baxter

An alternate history epic traces the rise of a powerful Celtic family whose successes in Roman-dominated ancient Britain are linked to an ancient prophecy that guides their financial and political choices. The *Time's Tapestry* series continues with **Conqueror**.

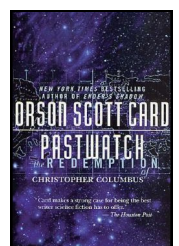
The Yiddish Policemen's Union by Michael Chabon (Adult Fiction)

In a world in which Alaska, rather than Israel, has become the homeland for the Jews following World War II, homicide Detective Meyer Landsman and his half-Tlingit partner Berko investigate the death of a heroin-addicted chess prodigy, despite being told from the highest sources to drop the case.



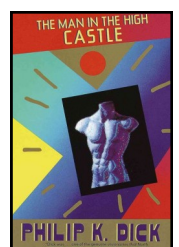
Pastwatch: The Redemption of Christopher Columbus by Orson Scott Card

In the not-too-distant future, after a scientific innovation allows researchers to open a window on the past, three time travelers from a ruined and doomed future Earth journey to the time of Columbus' landing, hoping to alter events so that the contact between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres will be less disastrous for the American Indians, indeed, for the whole world. Also try Card's *Alvin Maker* series starting with **Seventh Son**.



The Man in the High Castle by Philip K. Dick

It's America in 1962. Slavery is legal once again, the few Jews who still survive hide under assumed names. In San Francisco the I Ching is as common as the Yellow Pages. All because some 20 years earlier the United States lost a war—and is now occupied jointly by Nazi Germany and Japan.

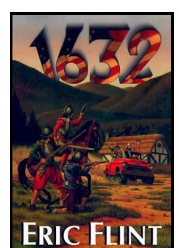


The Eyre Affair by Jasper Fforde (Adult Fiction)

In an alternate Great Britain circa 1985, where one can literally get lost in literature, Thursday Next, a literary detective, tries to stop the world's Third Most Wanted criminal from kidnapping characters, including Jane Eyre, from works of literature. The historical differences include: cloning brings back the dodo as the pet of choice, airplanes never took off, but instead people travel the globe by dropping through it, and time travel is routine.

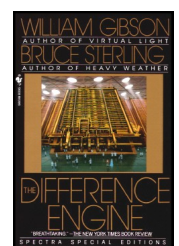
1632 by Eric Flint

A mysterious accident in time causes twenty-first-century American democracy to collide head-on with the Thirty Years War in seventeenth-century Germany as Mike Stearn and a group of armed miners take on a gang of strangely attired invaders who are threatening peaceful Grantville, West Virginia. Freedom and Justice, American Style, are introduced to the middle of The Thirty Years War. The *Assiti Shards* series, co-written with David Weber, continues with **1633**.



The Difference Engine by William Gibson and Bruce Sterling

1855: The Industrial Revolution is in full and inexorable swing, powered by steam-driven cybernetic Engines. Charles Babbage perfects his Analytical Engine and the computer age arrives a century ahead of its time. This heralds a new age of information as everything from fast food to credit cards turns the Victorian Era into a bizarre modern-day world.



Gettysburg: a Novel of the Civil War by Newt Gingrich (Adult Fiction)

A fictionalized account of an alternate American Civil War, based on five years of research, considers how history might have transpired if General Robert E. Lee had won the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. The *Gettysburg Trilogy* continues with **Grant Comes East**. Also try Gingrich's WWII *Pacific War* series starting with **Pearl Harbor**.

The Last Light of the Sun by Guy Gavriel Kay

The fates of three powerful civilizations--the Erlings of Vinmark, the Anglcyn kindom, and the Cyngael--clash in a fantasy based on the legends of the ancient Celts, Anglo-Saxons, and Norse.



His Majesty's Dragon by Naomi Novik

Imagine that you are a British navy captain in the Napoleonic Wars. The last thing you want is to ruin your career and marital prospects by joining the Aerial Corps, a rather uncouth and secretive branch of the service, but duty calls, and the dragon egg you captured from aboard a French ship is about to hatch. Yes, a dragon egg, in this first of a series, the British sea story is given a new twist: instead of tall ships, we have enormous flying dragons that make up an aerial combat force. The *Temeraire* series continues with **Throne of Jade**.



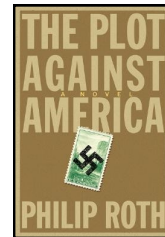
Boneshaker by Cherie Priest

Inventor Leviticus Blue creates a machine that accidentally decimates Seattle's banking district and uncovers a vein of Blight Gas that turns everyone who breathes it into the living dead. Sixteen years later Briar, Blue's widow, lives in the poor neighborhood outside the wall that's been built around the uninhabitable city. Life is tough with a ruined reputation, but she and her teenage son Ezekiel are surviving--until Zeke impetuously decides that he must reclaim his father's name from the clutches of history. Also try **Dreadnought**.



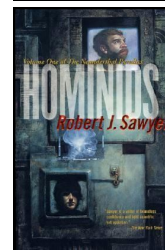
The Years of Rice and Salt by Kim Stanley Robinson

In an alternate history world in which the population of Europe is almost completely wiped out by the Black Death during the fourteenth century, three superpowers--China, India, and the nations of Islam--battle for supremacy in a World War destined to create a new world order.



The Plot Against America by Philip Roth (Adult Fiction)

Renowned aviation hero and rabid isolationist Charles A Lindbergh defeats Franklin Roosevelt by a landslide in the 1940 election. A young boy recounts what it was like for his Newark family during the menacing years of the Lindbergh presidency, when American citizens who happened to be Jews had every reason to expect the worst.

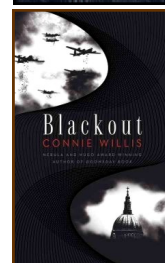


Hominids by Robert J. Sawyer

In a parallel world in which Neanderthals, rather than homo sapiens, became the dominant intelligent species, a dangerous scientific experiment traps a Neanderthal physicist on Earth. The *Neanderthal Parallax* series continues with **Humans** and **Hybrids**.

Roma Eterna by Robert Silverberg

A tale of Imperial Rome that never fell follows the great city as it expands its civilization, from the conquest of the Mayans of Mexico to the attempt of the Hebrews to flee Rome's tyranny by escaping to another planet.

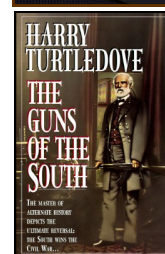


Blackout by Connie Willis

When a time-travel lab suddenly cancels assignments for no apparent reason and switches around everyone's schedules, time-traveling historians Michael, Merope, and Polly find themselves in World War II, facing air raids, blackouts, unexploded bombs, dive-bombing Stukas, rationing, shrapnel, V-1s, and two of the most incorrigible children in all of history--to say nothing of a growing feeling that not only their assignments but the war and history itself are spiraling out of control. Also try **Doomsday Book** and **To Say Nothing of the Dog**.

***** SPECIAL MENTION: HARRY TURTLEDOVE *****

Harry Turtledove often considered the master of alternate history. He's written novels and series dealing with the theme of the South winning the Civil War, as well as some about different outcomes of WWII.



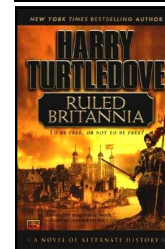
The Guns of the South by Harry Turtledove

January 1964—General Robert E. Lee faces defeat. The Army of Northern Virginia is ragged and ill equipped. The Battle of Gettysburg has broken the back of the confederacy and decimated its manpower. Then Andries Rhodie, a strange man with an unknown accent, approaches Lee with an extraordinary offer. Rhodie demonstrates an amazing rifle with guarantees of unlimited quantities to the Confederates. The name of the weapon is the AK-47.



Blood and Iron by Harry Turtledove

From the *Great War* series comes the *American Empire* series. The Great War has ended, and an uneasy peace reigns around most of the world. But nowhere is the peace more fragile than on the continent of North America, where bitter enemies share a single landmass and two long, bloody borders. As Canadian nationalists attempt to defy the colonial power of the United States, a fanatic preaches a message of hate in the South and a Canadian farmer tries to kill the greatest U.S. war hero, General George A. Custer. **The Center Cannot Hold** follows.



Ruled Britannia by Harry Turtledove

The year is 1597. For nearly a decade, the island of Britain has been under the rule of King Philip in the name of Spain. With Queen Elizabeth imprisoned in the Tower of London, the British have no one to unite them against the enemy who occupies their land. No one, that is, except William Shakespeare, a playwright presented with the opportunity to pen his greatest work, a drama that will incite the people of Britain to rise against their persecutors -and change the course of history. Also try just about any of Turtledove's other novels.