
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

THE ELLIOTT SCHOOL
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES)
is pleased to invite you to:

**Reassessing 1941:
Stalin's War Plans, Hitler's Attack, and the
Collapse of the Soviet Army**

with

Mark Solonin
Independent Russian Historian

Why did Stalin's empire, with the largest army in the world and after years of preparations to invade Europe, suffer a crushing defeat in the summer of 1941? Solonin argues that the main cause of the military catastrophe was neither Germany's numerical and technical superiority (it was on the Soviet side) nor Stalin's gullibility (he trusted nobody, and his Red Army was poised to invade Europe in the summer of 1941). The reason is simple and embarrassing for the Soviets: Stalin's military machine lacked the proper spirit and organization for a serious war. After the first shots were fired, the Red Army became an ungovernable mob of armed people, which swiftly abandoned their weapons and turned into endless columns of unarmed prisoners-of-war.

Mark Solonin, a well-known researcher of World War II, was born in Samara, USSR in 1958. He studied engineering at Samara Aerospace University and then worked for six years as a military aircraft designer. Solonin has written several articles on the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and has published four best-selling monographs in Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Estonia, Lithuania and the Czech Republic. Together, they show the Soviet military catastrophe of 1941 in a completely new light. The fifth (light and popular) book entitled *Screwing the Brains* won the Fifteen Best Russian Books of the Year competition in 2008. (www.solonin.org/en).

**Friday, September 24, 2010
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Lindner Family Commons
1957 E Street, NW, Room 602
Please RSVP to ieresgwu@gwu.edu.**