

1633 (Ring of Fire)

By Eric Flint, David Weber

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While the Thirty Years War rages on, a new force emerges in central Europe - the Confederated Principalities of Europe. This is an alliance between King Gustavus of Sweden and the West Virginians, led by Mike Stearns, who were hurled into 17th-century Germany by a mysterious time warp.

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1633 (Ring of Fire) By Eric Flint, David Weber Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this worthy sequel to the well-received 1632 (2000), about a small West Virginia coal-mining town transported back in time to the Germany of the Thirty Years War, original author Flint and coauthor Weber resist the temptation to use modern technology to impose a Pax Americana, instead allowing their transportees just enough high tech to prevail if they can win allies like Sweden's King Gustavus Adolphus. Most of the current book deals with coalition building, as the visitors from the future attempt to remake their new world into one safe for democracy despite opposition from such as Cardinal Richelieu. History books from a now-hypothetical future and antibiotics prove to be more potent than their limited supply of modern firearms, but the most powerful weapons of the new "United States" are its ideas, which now infect the millions of Germans ground under the heels of their princes. Ordinary Germans develop a new faith in themselves and their future when the Americans show them that they can do anything, even fly. Flint, a former union organizer, is particularly skilled at showing how the new converts can make even the "old Americans" uncomfortable in their zeal to achieve the blessings of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," while Weber helps smooth out characters who were stereotypes in the first book. This is a thoughtful and exciting look at just how powerful are the ideals we sometimes take for granted, and is highly recommended as a reminder of how we can look to others when at our best. (Aug.) FYI: Weber is also the coauthor with Steve White of *The Shiva Option* (Forecasts, Jan. 28), while Flint is also the coauthor with David Drake of *The Tyrant* (Forecasts, Mar. 25).

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From School Library Journal

Adult/High School-A sequel to 1632 (Baen, 2000), this book continues the saga of a West Virginia town hurled by a mysterious time vortex into the middle of Germany during the Thirty Years' War. The residents, led by Mike Stearns and his 17th-century wife Rebecca, attempt to introduce modern American values like freedom of speech to the people. The story recounts their attempts to build an air force (with biplanes powered by automobile motors) and a navy (which includes a few speedboats that happened to have been in town) to challenge the machinations of Cardinal Richelieu and the armed forces of France, Spain, and England, but the end result has as much to do with individual heroism as technology. Cleanly written, with an enormous cast of interesting characters, this novel is panoramic in scope. The contrast between the societies of Grantville and Europe allows the authors to examine the virtues of American values and show how the Bill of Rights, though closer to their time than ours, is the most revolutionary difference between the two societies. The ways in which modern knowledge is used without a technological base are fascinating and well researched, as is the real historical information that helps create the background world. Throughout, there is constant action and the hint of danger to characters readers care about.

Paul Brink, Fairfax County Public Library System, VA

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From Library Journal

When a cosmic accident transports the city of Grantville from 20th-century West Virginia to the German province of Thuringia in 1632, the population quickly adjusted to its new surroundings and began the American Revolution more than a century before its actual time. A year later, the small but powerful country plunges into European politics with aplomb, armed with a knowledge of "history," a host of keen and imaginative minds, and a spectacular array of 20th-century weapons. Collaborators Weber (the Honor Harrington series) and Flint (1632, *The Philosophical Strangler*) take historic speculation to a new level in a tale that combines accurate historical research with bold leaps of the imagination. Fans of alternate history

and military sf should enjoy this rousing tale of adventure and intrigue.
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