

Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| <i>List of illustrations</i> | page vii |
| <i>List of maps</i> | ix |
| <i>Acknowledgements</i> | xi |
| <i>Glossary of terms</i> | xiii |
| <i>Tables of military ranks and army structures</i> | xv |
| | |
| Introduction | 1 |
| | |
| Part I Strategic plans and theoretical conceptions for war against the Soviet Union | |
| | |
| 1 Fighting the bear | 33 |
| The evolution of early strategic planning | 33 |
| Two ways to skin a bear – the Marcks and Lossberg plans | 39 |
| Crisis postponed – from war games to Directive No. 21 | 54 |
| 2 The gathering storm | 70 |
| The army deployment directive | 70 |
| The dysfunctional order – delusion as operative discourse | 84 |
| Barbarossa – the zenith of war | 95 |
| 3 Barbarossa’s sword – Hitler’s armed forces in 1941 | 105 |
| Carrying fear before them and expectation behind – Hitler’s panzer arm | 105 |
| Standing before the precipice – the infantry and Luftwaffe on the eve of Barbarossa | 117 |
| The impossible equation – the logistics and supply of Barbarossa | 127 |
| 4 The advent of war | 139 |
| ‘Welcome to hell on earth’ | 139 |

Part II The military campaign and the July/August crisis of 1941

| | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 5 | Awakening the bear | 153 |
| | Indecisive border battles and the surfacing of strategic dissent | 153 |
| | The Belostok–Minsk pocket – anatomy of a hollow victory | 170 |
| | Straining the limits – Bock’s race to the rivers | 186 |
| 6 | The perilous advance to the east | 209 |
| | Forging across the Dvina and Dnepr – the threshold to demise | 209 |
| | ‘The Russian is a colossus and strong’ (Adolf Hitler) | 228 |
| | Caught in the hinterlands | 245 |
| 7 | The battle of Smolensk | 260 |
| | The end of blitzkrieg | 260 |
| | Crisis rising – the German command at war | 273 |
| | ‘I am on the brink of despair’ (Franz Halder) | 290 |
| 8 | The attrition of Army Group Centre | 306 |
| | The killing fields at Yel’nya | 306 |
| | Sealing the Smolensk pocket and Army Group Centre’s fate | 324 |
| | Victory at Smolensk? The paradox of a battle | 344 |
| 9 | In search of resurgence | 361 |
| | The arduous road to renewal | 361 |
| | ‘Today is the beginning of positional warfare!’ (Fedor von Bock) | 380 |
| | Embracing world war and apocalypse – Hitler reaches resolution | 400 |
| 10 | Showdown | 423 |
| | Hitler’s triumph in defeat | 423 |
| | Conclusion | 439 |
| | <i>Bibliography</i> | 452 |
| | <i>Index</i> | 474 |