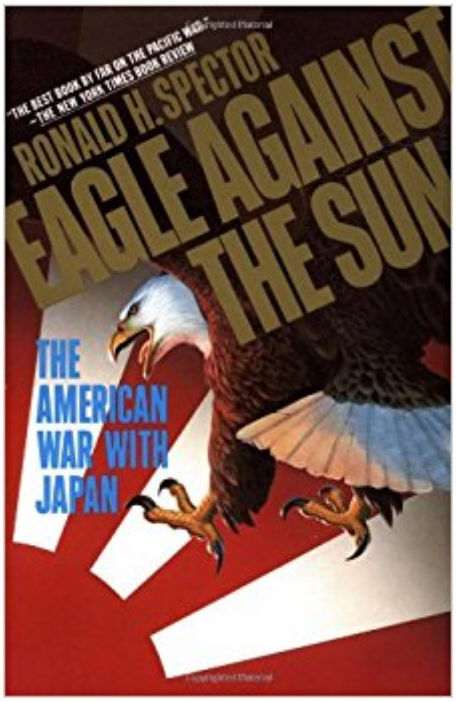
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Eagle Against The Sun: The American War With Japan



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Synopsis

A stunning history of the war in the Pacific written by award-winning military historian Ronald Spector. DrawingÃ Â on declassified intelligence files, an abundance of British and American archival material, Japanese scholarship and documents, and research and memoirs of scholarly and military men, Spector focuses on the major battles in the Pacific theater as well as the smaller details, from the various rivalries between branches of the U.S. armed services to the problems of command and allocating resources. Spector has written "the best one-volume history of that complex conflict" (The New York Times). Only now can the full scope of the war in the Pacific be fully understood.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A historian at the Army Center for Military History, Spector concentrates on the problem of command in the Southern Pacific theaters, the rivalries between the various U.S. armed services and the problem of allocating resources. PW praised his ability to "show how even the most efficiently run campaigns unfold against a background of violent dispute." NovemberCopyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"Spector has done the impossible and done it ,with dazzling brilliance. Mining a warehouse of material with absolute control, he has produced a superbly readable, insightful, gripping, unbiased one-volume history of the American-Japanese war that is at the same time a glorious celebration of the American spirit."-- Clay Blair. front page. The Washington Post Book World"The best

one-volume history of that complex conflict... No other presents as balanced a view or provides such terse and searching analyses not only of the great battles but of half-forgotten aspects, such as the impact of blacks and female participants on the services...No future book on the Pacific war will be written without paying due tribute to Eagle Against The Sun."-- Drew Middleton, The New York Times"Clear, coherent, effective...this is an excellent book... likely to be for a long time to come the standard, comprehensive history of the Pacific Ocean War." -- Russell E Weighley, Temple University.

Eagle Against the Sun: The American War With JapanÃ Â I have read this book 3 times and plan on reading it again. Most folks get their knowledge of the war in the pacific by watching the History Channel, AHC...so have I, I love history. I have read a lot of books about the war in the pacific, some individual account, some about a battle or series of battles, some that try to make a case about a particular aspect of the war.This book explains in amazing detail about the decisions (good and bad), the politics, the strategies, the interservice, intergovernmental, international rivalries and how they impacted the war. At times I thought I was reading about a heavy weight prize fight. I loved this style, but I can see where it may make it difficult for some to follow. This books starts at the beginning, when Admiral Perry visited Japan in 1853 all the way to defeat of Japan missing nothing. Spector includes the declassified documents made available in the mid 80’s, clearly contradicting some earlier explanations of some events and what a lot of people thought was common knowledge. Some of your heros will be goats, well documented in mid 80’s de-classified dispatches...whoops. All the gory details will be laid out for you to examine, the decisions and strategies of the allied leadership as well as the Japanese military and their politicians. It rocked my world.I read the Kindle addition and literally had to have my laptop handy to look up some of the remote pacific islands. A bit of an inconvenience, but not a problem to me although maps throughout the book would have been helpful.

This book presents a fascinating view of action in the Pacific Theater, and provides information that does a lot to explain the events that took place. To me, it seems to provide a very balanced viewpoint.At the same time, this book is poorly edited. The number of typos, bad spellings, etc., is distracting. It’s almost as if a high school student of college freshman was given an assignment to edit the book and did an incomplete job. I don’t know if this issue stems from the author or the publisher, or a combination of both; but this book has more typos and mistakes than almost any historical book I’ve ever read.So, to sum it up, the content is great, but the editing job leaves

something to be desired.

Spector has some shortcomings but it is the only work that has a strategic focus. Most writers concentrate on the emotional aspects of the war and often on the experiences of individuals but Spector helps us see the big picture where grand strategic decisions were made. There is still room today for a better book about the war given that this book is now dated and more records are available but that book has not been written. If you only have time for one book on the pacific this is it. Brian AWC17

I purchased this book due to wanting a change of scenery from the Normandy Campaign and the European Theater as I am a WWII history buff, but mainly favor reading and learning about the European Theater. I searched on here and found this book by Spector and am pleasantly surprised by it and enjoyed it for the most part.Pros: A very well done account of the Pacific Theater of World War II. Spector covers all of the major battles, operations, the important players for Japanese and Allied forces, the locations, and some other interesting nuggets such as introducing the American military build up in all branches from WWI to WWII as well as Japanese military build up.Cons: At times the formatting is confusing. What I mean is...he talks about parts of the Pacific theater until page 300ish til 1944 or so and then jumps to the Chinese and Burma part of the war way back in 1941 and 1942, which could be confusing to casual readers. I am a history major so I handled it alright but even to me it was puzzling. Then, in the 400ish page ranges he started including random chapters on the negro, women, etc, in the war, and a chapter on what men did on leave in various locations in the war. Don’t get me wrong, some of the more interesting chapters in the book, but perhaps he should have worked these into the book earlier as I was use to the various island operations and theaters of war discussed and then he goes to a chapter on leave just as the final build up is coming to end the war.I know the cons look longer than the pros but this is definitely a 4/5 star book. The info is great, the sources are awesome. This book focus’s on the operational part of the Pacific Theater, not a narrative type of the war like some historians like Stephen Ambrose, Cornelius Ryan, and Antony Beevor have done so well over the years, and I love those types of history books the best, but this is still a fairly easy read of sorts, if you can stay focused on all the dozens of names and places. There is only one map at the beginning, which some might not like, but it does a good job of showing locales of major battles but just one map...so some might want a book with more maps. Overall, I recommend this book...if you enjoy World War II history or if you are someone who enjoys history and can handle a for the most part operational view on the war, not

a narrative for the most part.

So well written, but the lack of maps fatally compromises the book. The whole point of the Americans' strategy in the Pacific War was to bypass those islands and other objectives that did not have to be taken and to attack and take only those that were necessary. While Spector explains in clear detail the inter-service politics that influenced the decisions as to which to take and which to bypass, without maps the reader cannot see what was was on the flank of anything else or the geographic relationships between anything. In other words, the reader just has to take the decision-makers' word for the soundness of their strategy. Reading this book is like a written description of a football game: without any visual context, it's nothing more than adjectives. What was the publisher's strategy in deciding to exclude maps?

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