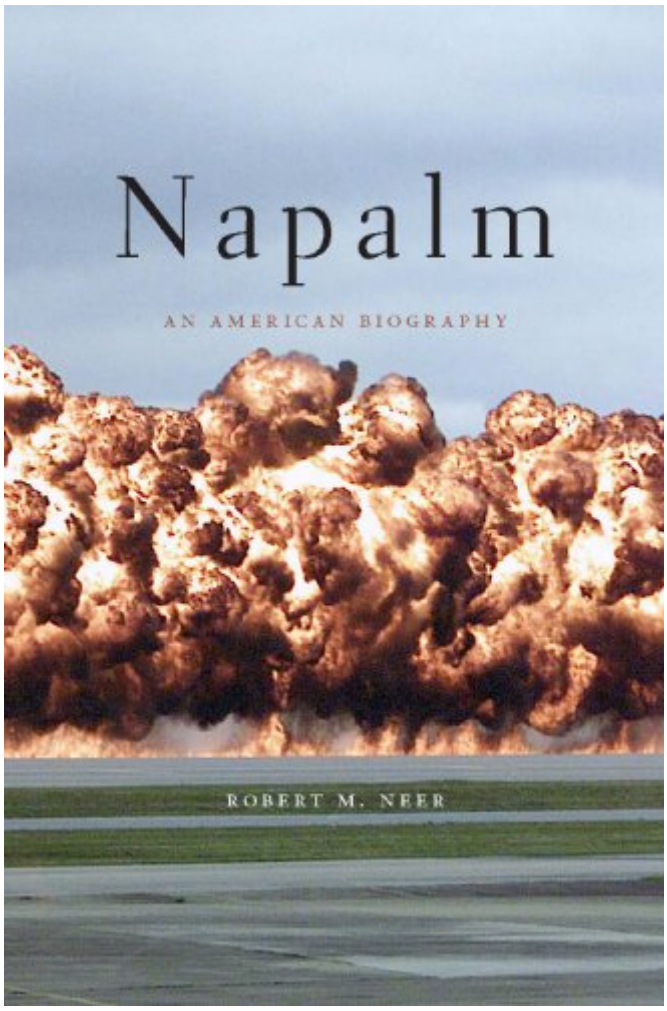
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Napalm



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Synopsis

Napalm was invented on ValentineÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Day 1942 at a secret Harvard war research laboratory. It created an inferno that killed over 87,500 people in TokyoÃ¢â ¬â •more than died in the atomic explosions at Hiroshima or NagasakiÃ¢â ¬â •and went on to incinerate 64 Japanese cities. The Bomb got the press, but napalm did the work. Robert Neer offers the first history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is another book that brings me to tears. Well worth reading. If you read this, you might also try Nick Turse’s KILL ANYTHING THAT MOVES. Both of these books provide a necessary, if heartbreaking for some of us, insight into America’s way of making war.

great book

OK

wow

It is misleading to say that the 5 stars I give this book mean "I love it": the content of the book is too horrifying to love. That it was enlightening is embarrassingly true. Read it and find out who you are.

What the reader wants to see is what it is like to be roasted alive. What does a poor simple Vietnamese peasant look like roasted alive in his or her bamboo hut. It does not do this.

I enjoyed this book - viewing the history of military conflict from the perspective of the development and use of napalm is an interesting way to approach the subject. Overall, the book has a ’solid’ feel - the distinctions and qualifications the author feels compelled to make in order to properly address his subject indicate admirably thorough research.Although the military folks like to talk about napalm as an instrument for infrastructure destruction and psychological warfare, we all know that its true value is its remarkable capability to maim and kill combatants (and non-combatants) through burning. We have learned a great deal about injury and death through burning in the decades since napalm was invented; it would have been nice to have an entire chapter dedicated to this topic. However, this is a small quibble.Replying to the previous reviewer:(1) The author clearly describes how WWII pilots used low-altitude napalm bombing runs over Japan;(2) The author does not state that all Vietnam War protesters were Communist-sympathizers because this is an absurd claim that can’t possibly be substantiated in any reasonable manner.

This is a highly readable account of poison and politics. Mr. Neer’s command of story and place is reminiscent of the best histo-biographers in the business. An admirable, informative read.

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