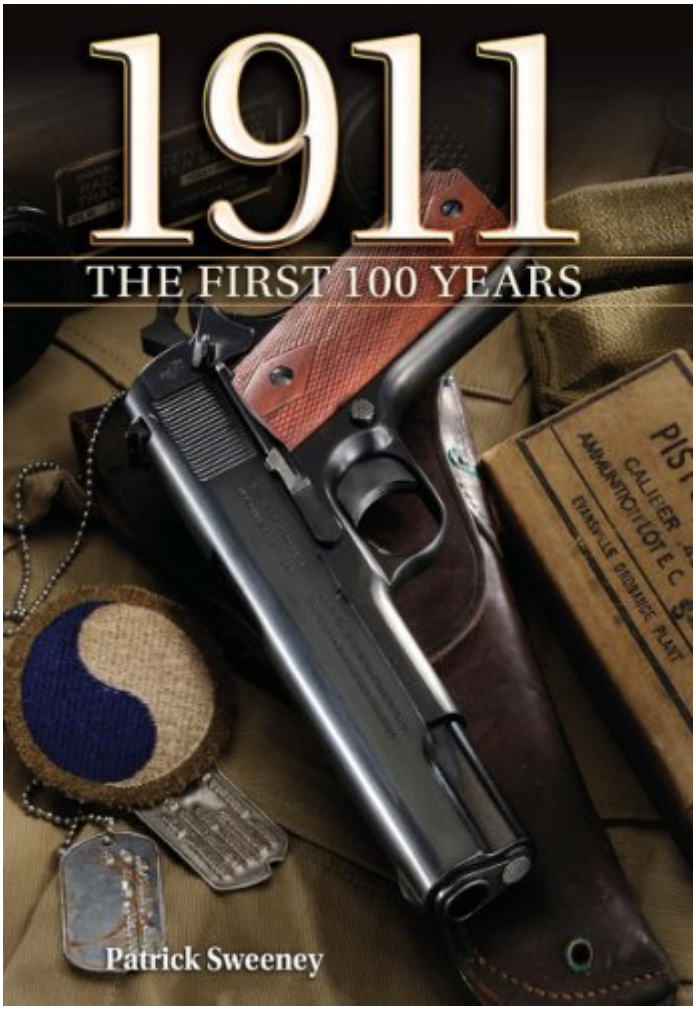
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1911 The First 100 Years: The First 100 Years



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Synopsis

In 1911, the history of firearms changed forever with the adoption of the greatest pistol ever designed, the Automatic Pistol, Caliber .45, M1911--known today simply as the 1911. Now, in one fascinating, illustrated volume, authority Patrick Sweeney celebrates the 100th anniversary of the greatest fighting handgun ever designed, John M. Brownings legendary 1911 .45. From the predecessors of the 1911 and its contemporaries to the best of today’s semi- and full-custom models, you’ll find it in 1911: The First 100 Years. Lavishly illustrated with photographs collected from around the world, 1911: The First 100 Years is a fitting centennial tribute to a pistol that is today more popular than ever. For the collector, for the shooter, for the historian--for anyone interested in big-bore handguns or the evolution of this truly American classic, this is a must-have volume.

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Customer Reviews

I will admit right off that I am a huge fan of the M1911 pistol and of its creator John M Browning and that my opinion of the subject matter is obviously biased. That said this book isn’t geared towards a

’casual fan’ of the design, but those who love the pistol, the history in it, or both. I’ve spent all of my life shooting guns of all types and sizes, first for fun and food and later for work as a member of the US military for the last twelve years. Having fired hundreds of thousands of rounds over the years in training and war I still prefer the M1911 pistol to all others and for many reasons.This is a book about the 1911 pistol but is more than just that, it is a book about the history and happenings that required such a pistol. As well as the uses it has seen over the century that followed. There is no other pistol, or any military weapon, that was designed 100 years ago and is still in active service with military forces. Yet the 1911 soldiers on gracefully serving our nation and allies with realistically minor updates. I find that to be amazing and inspiring from a historical small arms perspective as well as from a proud American’s view point.Patrick Sweeney is a well known author when it comes to firearms and has written a number of books on the 1911 specifically. That said he takes a slightly different approach with this book looking at the design, history, reasoning, use, upgrades and future of this weapon platform. The writing is quite good but I find the photography even better. There are pictures of 1911s that are so rare most people will never see them in person. Indeed many people may not even have known some existed. As a reference for the collector and fan the pictures alone are worth the price of the book.As the centennial of the M1911 pistol arrives I think there will be a number of books looking to take advantage of that. Some may be very good, if any are as good or better than this book then it will be a great year for the fan of the platform.

This book is unique and valuable because it’s a tool for historians,shooters,1911 lovers or anyone who’s interested in seeing American history unfold from early 1900’s to today. It’s a well written, extremely interesting story depicting many views of the new self-defense,"gun of the century", the 1911. Besides being the world’s greatest semi-automatic pistol this book shows THE why’s and how’s in detail.Testing and research went on for years, culminating in a proven and trust-worthy friend to all who shot the weapon. All the pro’s and cons of a truely unique sidearm that became a "savior" for combat veterans in WWI, WWII, and the Korean conflict;to shooters of the 1911 today.This book of the 1911 shadows other weapons world-wide as it explains just what made the 1911 a revolutionary man stopper. The 1911 .45 didn’t come into the military picture without accompanying problems. Strange as it may seem, the US Army actually showed contemporary intelligence in their testing and re-testing of all the handguns vying for new pistol position. Who could have guessed.....This book is captivating look at how America came to regard an autoloader weapon as it stepped into a century of "trench warfare" and beyond. A valuable read, well done by the author who steps into history to provide a fascinating dedication of the 1911. A

gem.....

As not only a lifelong aficionado of the gun, having bought a Colt .45 on the very day I became legal to do so, but also as an action pistol competitor, range official, and match director, this book hit just about every button right for me.History is another interest and Sweeney pitches bits of 1911 history into so many places one wants to read ahead just to get to the next unknown nugget.Sweeney knows whereof he speaks when it comes to the gun, the history of it (having been near to a lot of the modern era), and the nuts and bolts. All perspectives are just what I want to see in a book about the 1911, and there's plenty of all here.

I was a bit skeptical when I bought this book. Being a big fan of the 1911 I had read several of Sweeney's former books and most have been more like catalogs than being informative. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. He goes from the history of the automatic pistol, to the development and evolution of the 1911, to it's use in competition over the past several decades. He also covers the development and history of competing products like the German Luger, the .45 caliber Savage that competed with the 1911 in the early government tests for a military handgun, and many others. He offers several insights into the development and early evolution of the 1911 that I have never read anywhere else. It's clear that he has done a lot of research into producing this book. The excellent photography is worth the cost of the book alone. For anyone interested in the 1911, this book is a must. I give it 5 Stars for being an excellent read and a very informative source of information about a subject I have been interested in for the past 50 years. Well done, Mr. Sweeney!

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