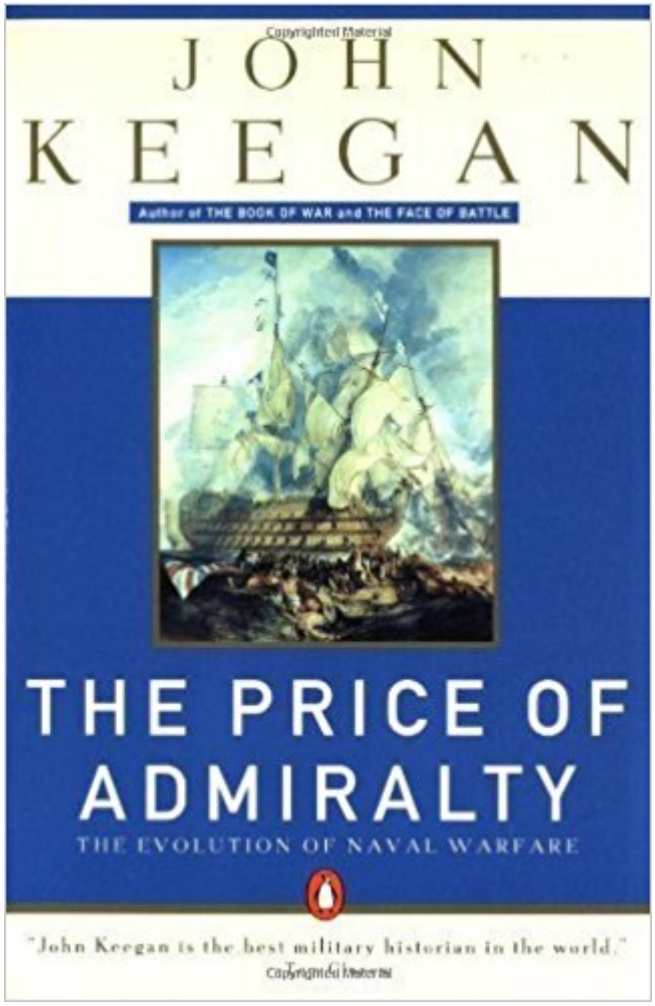
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The Price Of Admiralty: The Evolution Of Naval Warfare From Trafalgar To Midway



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Synopsis

Military historian John KeeganÃ¢â ¬â„¢s gripping history of naval warfareÃ¢â ¬â„¢s evolution. InÃ Â The Price of Admirality, leading military historian John Keegan illuminates the history of naval combat by expertly dissecting four landmark sea battles, each featuring a different type of warship: the Battle of Trafalgar, the Battle of Jutland in World War I, the Battle of Midway in World War II, and the long and arduous Battle of the Atlantic. Ã¢â ¬Å“The best military historian of our generation.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Tom Clancy Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“The Price of Admirality stands alongside Mr. KeeganÃ¢â ¬â„¢s earlier works in its power to impart both the big and little pictures of war.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The New York Times

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Customer Reviews

The author here analyzes four landmark naval engagements: the 1805 British victory at Trafalgar; the WW I battle of Jutland; the WW II battles of Midway and the Atlantic. "Keegan writes as authoritatively as his admirers have come to expect," maintained PW. Photos. 35,000 first printing.

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Keegan (The Face of Battle), a distinguished analyst of land warfare, moves in this work to the human dynamics of war at sea. He structures his work around four battles: Trafalgar, Jutland, Midway, and the Atlantic. Each was defined by a particular weapons system. Yet for all the importance of technology, ways of living were as important as methods of fighting. Keegan’s aphoristically stimulating theses include the suggestion that "man killing" rather than "ship killing"

decided Trafalgar. The behavior of Kaiser Wilhelm’s navy in World War I is described as conditioned by an officer corps readier to die heroically than to keep the sea for months and years on end. Such insights show Keegan at his best: blazing trails for others to footnote. Recommended for most collections.- Dennis E. Showalter, Colorado Coll., Colorado SpringsCopyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I was interested in why the U.S. would still be building aircraft carriers in this age of missiles. I read the chapter on the battle of Midway, which I thought would provide some context, while not directly relevant, since Midway was primarily a battle between aircraft carriers. Keegan writes clearly, and more importantly seems to know just the right level of detail to provide. In addition to Midway, the chapter covers the events leading to Pearl Harbor, and why it was so successful for Japan. As to Midway, the strategies and objectives of both sides are explained, the tactics and their rationales, the mistakes made and gambles taken, and an account of the battle itself without too much detail. Relevant details of the personalities and beliefs of the leaders on both sides, and a characterization of the fighting men provide additional color. Ironically, the Japanese admiral who planned the raid on Pearl Harbor did not believe Japan could win the war and was therefore against it. The chapter explains why it is so hard to train pilots for the carriers, but I was still struck by the fact that the Japanese could only train about 100 such pilots a year, which perhaps deserved more explanation. During the battle pilots often took off knowing they would likely have to ditch because fuel would run out before they could make it back. The battle was still an engagement where knowledge of the location of the enemy was limited, and any intelligence, whose acquisition was often fortuitous, was critical. The US had broken the Japanese naval code, which was very useful in planning the basic strategy, but the Japanese went silent about a week before the engagement.

John Keegan is one of those historian writers that can bring amazing stories to life. This book is about different aspects of naval war. For example, he covers battleships by the Battle of Jutland. He gives the development of the modern Dreadnought and explains the 2-foot thick armor belt that protects the ships vitals, and what it is like to be going 35 miles an hours, shooting 2,000 lb shell at a ship 15 miles away that is shooting back. He addresses naval air warfare with the battle of Midway. He explains sailing ship battles with Trafalgar, and submarine warfare with the Battle of the Atlantic. As a historian, Keegan can be somewhat dry, but what an amazing read this book is.One of the best works I’ve ever read.

Naval campaigns analysed by the author represent three different epochs of war at sea.War in the age of sail involving woodenships ,the steam age when Dreadnoughts[ironclads]engaged in duels using long-range guns.Advances in the field of technology saw the emergenceof aircraft and submarine.Concurrently four major sea battles [Trafalgar,Jutland,Midwayand Atlantic campaign]each an apogee of its epoch has become the focus of author's study.Keegan then traces the origins of war at sea and says that it started when pirates started attacking seaborne commerce,a thesis indeed debatable.Of particular interest is author's narration of evolution of naval tactics which has had a chequered past.Ancient times it was galley warfare.Rival fleets rammed amidships.Bridges were thrown and soldiers would board.Outcome of such an engagement decided by brute force.The gunpowder revolution in the age of sail made cannons compact enough to be installed aboard ships. This brought about different modes of engagement.Ships came to fire broadsides.The admirals experimented with different forms of manoeuvre which helped to bring fire on the enemy line better.The Royal Navy deployed ships in 'line ahead' formation alongside the opposing fleet engaging the enemy downwind.However in Trafalgar it adopted a new manoeuvre 'breaking the line'French ships were enveloped and enfiladed from the wings.Experiences of men who saw combat in the seas have been documented.Equal stress has also been given on the impact of technology on naval warfare.The supersession of woodenship by ironclad and sail by steam transformed the nature of war at sea.Arm oured protection enhanced the seaworthiness of ships ,steam propulsion increased its speed.Outcome of battles now determined by the accuracy of long -range gunnery.With the coming of aircraft and submarine war at sea became complex and multidimensional.Naval actions can now be staged on surface ,air and subsurface.Hitherto aeroplane aboard ships have been used for scouting purposes , for directing gun fire.But a combination of bomb and torpedo made aircraft a lethal weapon.A new generation of naval leaders realised that planes operating from flight decks can be used for projecting fire power across vast ocean spaces.This idea made the 'big gun' philosophy obselete.Another powerful weapon , the submarine which can be used to deny the freedom of navigation in highseas posing a threat to the security of maritime nations.Both world wars the German U boats brought the Allied navies almost to the brink of defeat. In the final chapter Keegan predicts future prospects of war at sea.Seas will be devoid of capital ships and submarines would become the instruments of sea control.Using stealth , manoeuvrability,high underwater speed ; launching torpedoes and missiles from great depths it can whittle down the strengh of carrier battlegroups.Finally I may add,with spy satellites hanging overhead, keeping round- the- clock vigil, a pearl harbor type ambush is virtally ruled out.

Interesting book. Generally read more about recent history, so found the first chapter about Trafalgar very interesting. The author really dissects the action in the battles to give fascinating insight. Keegan books are always very scholarly. While not easy reading, worthwhile. Certainly "off the beaten path" for the military reader.

Book was in good shape. Keegan may be reviewing well examined incidents but the value resides in his concise summaries of how they illustrate key concepts of turning points in navel power/national interests.

My first read of this author. He writes well and is easy to read. I am very impressed by his knowledge of the subject. Very enlightening for me. I plan to read more of his work.

John Keegan is the foremost author on subject related to the military. His disection of the way the human race has evolved from wooden battleships to the present is very revealing. He brings to the reader a good insight on what happens behind the scenes. He also examines the personalities involved. All in all a very humanistic view of mankinds conquering ways on the high seas.

Grade A, lots of insight.

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