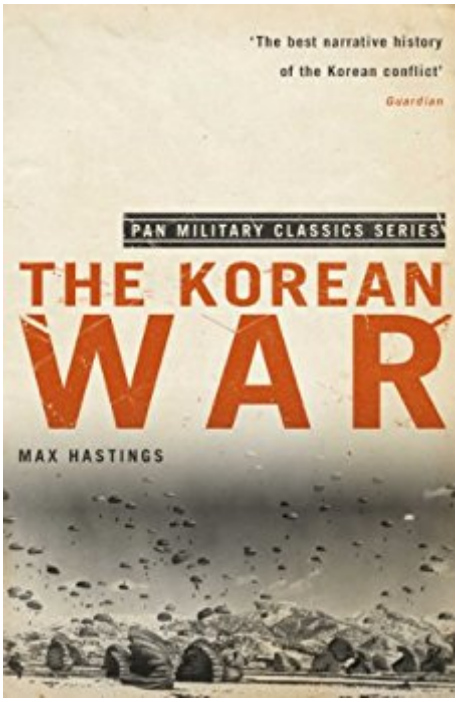
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The Korean War (Pan Military Classics)



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Synopsis

On 25 June 1950, the invasion of South Korea by the Communist North launched one of the bloodiest conflicts of the last century. The seemingly limitless power of the Chinese-backed North was thrown against the ferocious firepower of the UN-backed South in a war that can be seen today as the stark prelude to Vietnam. Max Hastings drew on first-hand accounts of those who fought on both sides to produce this vivid and incisive reassessment of the Korean War, bringing the military and human dimensions into sharp focus. Critically acclaimed on publication, The Korean War remains the best narrative history of this conflict.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Hasting’s military histories are uniformly excellent - this one is no exception. For the American reader the book is particularly interesting in that the emphasis is on Commonwealth forces. I recommend it.

Written more objectively, in the context of when it was written, the author does a good job of illustrating the strategic overview of the war.

Hard for American to swallow the distain for America....why would this constant narrative of

diminishing a country that bled so hard twice ..and as we sit today with North Korea a serious threat perhaps UN allies should have supported a better conclusion

another tour de force from this preeminent british author. a factual retelling of the Korean conflict that is clear, concise, and factual.

This is the best book on the subject I have read so far. The author is British and therefore has no patriotic ax to grind about either the motives or the performance of the United States in this war. He acknowledges that Syngman Rhee was a brutal and corrupt dictator who committed numberless atrocities against his own people, but he makes a compelling argument that the regime under Kim Il Sung was far worse, and given the status of North Korea today the argument is hard to refute. The Americans were guilty of ignorance and lack of tactical vision, but Hastings affirms that their motives for fighting the war were sound. Here is his concluding statement: "If the Korean War was a frustrating, profoundly unsatisfactory experience, more than thirty-five years later it still seems a struggle that the West was utterly right to fight."

Fantastic history of the Korean War, Hastings is one of the very best. What makes him unique is besides giving you all the details, he constantly has input from front line troops and civilians (both sides in many areas) as this all proceeded - allowing you to have a good picture of what was happening at the macro and micro level.

Hastings writing makes for easy reading

This is one of the author’s best works. A reader of history will enjoy.I also enjoyed the parallels between Korea and Vietnam a decade later.

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