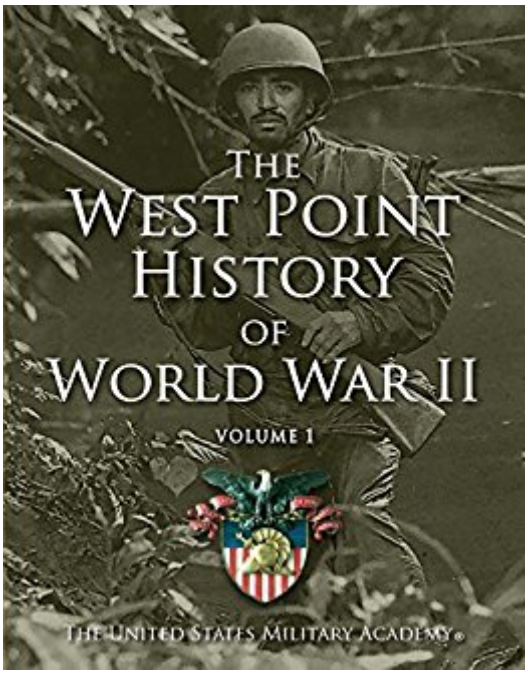
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West Point History Of World War II, Vol. 1 (The West Point History Of Warfare Series Book 3)



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Synopsis

An outstanding new military history of the first half of World War II, featuring a rich array of images, exclusive graphics, superb new maps, and expert analysis commissioned by the United States Military Academy to teach the art of war to West Point cadets.Since 1836, United States Military Academy texts have been the gold standard for teaching military history and the operational art of war. Now the USMA has developed a new military history series for the public featuring the story of World War II in two volumes, of which this is the first. The West Point History of World War II combines the expertise of preeminent historians with hundreds of maps and images, many created for this volume or selected from Army collections. The first volume offers a balanced narrative analyzing the rising tide of Axis conquest from 1939 to mid-1942, ranging from battlefield decisions to operational and strategic plans, all set in their proper political context. The closing chapter provides a thematic treatment of the mobilization of the warring nationsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ economies and home fronts for the conduct of total war. The West Point History of World War II has been tested, checked, and polished by West Point cadets, faculty, and graduates to make this the best military history of its kind.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Seems like a high school level (9th grade) history book. Maps are good, however they are a little difficult to read.

Real quality book this is. Lots of photos and writeup.

Outstanding book & seller!

I wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t quite sure what to expect when I saw this book. I was worried that it would be a ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“dry, military textbookÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• discussing obscure battles in mind-numbing detail. That certainly wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t it at all. It was more of a WWII atlas, although it is really more than that.=== The Good Stuff ===* The drawings, maps charts and graphs are fantastic. They are able to convey large amounts of information in simple, easy-to-understand formats. For example, there were a couple maps of the Battle of France. They showed basic topography, the German and Allied orders-of-battle, placement and movement of individual units, and showed the overall strategy of both the sides. I have read any number of histories of this battle, and gleamed still further understanding from this book.* There are also many excellent photographs, along with good captions explaining what is being shown and why it is significant. Most of the images shown are clear, and they added an understanding to the conditions of the war. There were also several surprises mixed in. For example, I never knew Dr. Seuss did Allied Propaganda posters.*The ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“textÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• of the book is almost an afterthought. It is well written, but serves mostly as a narrative of the higher-level events of the war. The text contained little new information for the average WWII history buff, but it does serve to tie together the many maps, photos and sidebars.=== The Not-So-Good Stuff ===* The text was actually a bit of a disappointment. It was shallow, and stated many opinions which it didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t bother to justify or explain. Mostly, it served as a binder for all the other content.* At times, the maps and photos got ahead of the text. I hate having to keep multiple ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“threadsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• going in a book, but I found myself do that in many parts of this work.=== Summary ===The book was excellent, except for the text. I enjoyed spending time with the maps and the orders-of-battle, and found that they filled in many gaps of my knowledge of the war. And while the text of the book is relatively ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“simpleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, I think the graphical content will be most enjoyed by more serious amateur historians.I read the galley copy on my iPad. I donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t know what the publishers plans are for distribution, but I would

recommend hardcopy instead of digital files. It usually took several seconds to render each page, so just flipping through pages became frustrating and time consuming.=== Disclaimer ===I was able to read an advance copy through the courtesy of the publisher and NetGalley.

The West Point History of World War II, Vol. 1 straddles the line between a beautiful coffee table or display book and a history text. It is successful on both counts though I think its hardback version makes a better coffee table book while an interactive electronic version would make an excellent textbook.The graphics, photographs and maps are phenomenal and make this an excellent addition to even a WWII buff's library. Many pieces were developed for this volume or not previously published from the Academy's archives. Each section of the text is written by a historian who specializes in that area and incorporates the latest scholarship. This is not meant to be an in depth military history presented in a vacuum but rather the story of the war from its seeds in the Treaty of Versailles with attention to all of the aspects of the war from strategy on the battlefield to work on the home front.I want to clarify one point about the hardback's use as a textbook. As a former educator I would have hesitated to assign this book in a WWII survey course because of its physical size, not because the text is unworthy. The book is roughly the size of a sheet of paper, 8.5"x11". While not necessarily prohibitively large size is a factor to consider. That said, if I found this to be the best text for the course, I would not hesitate to assign it.I would recommend this to anyone from a history buff to someone wanting a better understanding of the lead-in to the war and the first conflicts. The writing is very accessible without losing its rigor, with plenty of endnotes to supplement further research.Reviewed from a copy made available through Goodreads First Reads.

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