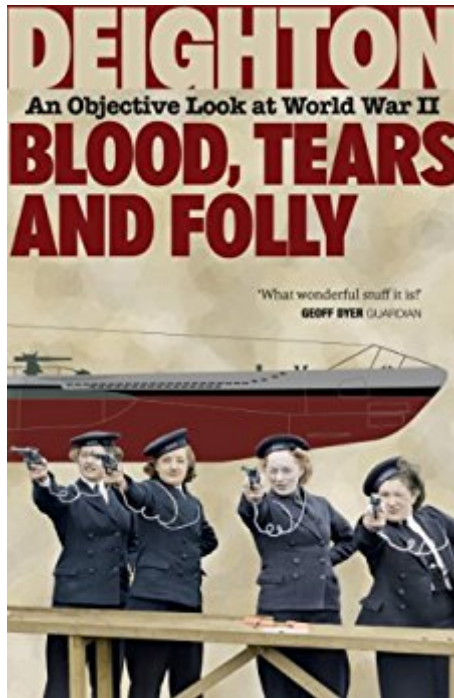


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Blood, Tears And Folly: An Objective Look At World War II



Synopsis

Drawing on the author's deep understanding of military life and the strengths and frailties of politicians and generals, this is a myth-puncturing analysis of the advent of the Second World War. *Blood, Tears and Folly* offers a sweeping and compelling historical analysis of six theatres of war: the Battle of the Atlantic, Hitler's conquest of western Europe, the war in the Mediterranean, the battle for the skies, Operation Barbarossa and the German assault on Russia, and the entry of Japan into a truly global war. This is the period during which the Allied powers were brought to the very brink of defeat. Deighton offers an unflinching account of the political machinations, the strategy and tactics, the weapons and the men on both sides who created a world of terror and millions of dead, of the Holocaust, and of nuclear devastation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Despite its subtitle, this is NOT an 'objective look' at World War II. Whatever else Len Deighton may be - and he is certainly a terrific writer - this book bristles with opinions and may fairly be viewed as a long argument, using very detailed analyses of weapons, events and personalities, to demonstrate that much of what is now taken for true about the war is myth. Deighton takes especial

delight in puncturing certain British pomposities, and while he is not the first, he is certainly one of the best writers to turn the spotlight of a considerable intelligence on stupid and self-serving decision making. He shows repeatedly the human cost of decisions that seem to have been made out of misplaced allegiance to a particular branch of the service or from clinging to unfounded beliefs in the face of all conflicting evidence. He seems to be saying to his English audience that though Britain 'won' the war, it was only through exceptional sacrifice, accident and outside intervention. While this book can be enjoyed as a war history - heavy on specifics related to combat on sea, land and in the air and light on political and social aspects - it is especially interesting as argument. The comparison of weapons systems, especially in light of the brief histories that Deighton presents showing how each country had positioned itself (or not) for the war, allows the reader to see much that was already known in an entirely different light. We leave this book feeling as though we have really learned something new. No mean feat when we consider that this is the most written about war of all time. Deighton manages to make his use of detail and specific anecdote work by employing his skill as a story teller.

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