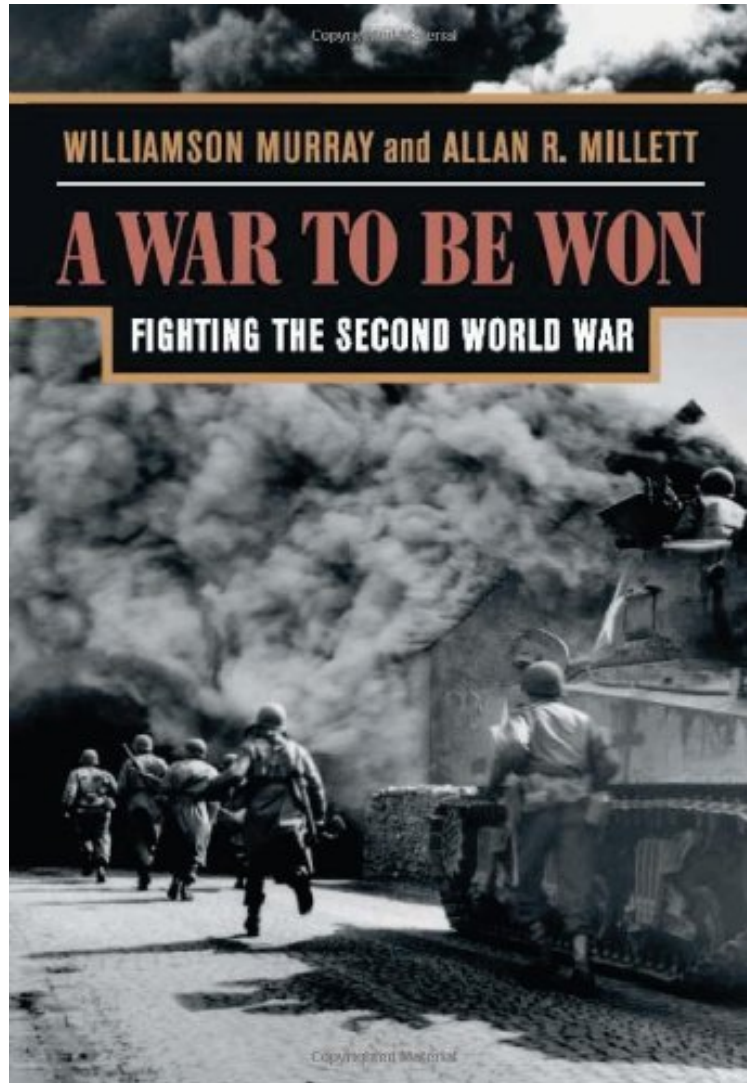


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A WAR TO BE WON: Fighting the Second World War

Von Williamson Murray, Allan Reed Millett
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Von Williamson Murray, Allan Reed Millett : A WAR TO BE WON: Fighting the Second World War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A WAR TO BE WON: Fighting the Second World War:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Word War II: How Militarily Effective were the antagonists?Von James J. BloomThis excellent book continues the approach to warfare taken by the authors in their outstanding three-volume edited series: "Military Effectiveness" published about a decade ago. That book looked at the First World War and the Second World War (including the interwar period) from the standpoint of each participating nation. It set up the standard of "military effectiveness", taken at the

levels of grand strategy/national policy (to include industrial and economic preparation) strategy (operational war plans) and battlefield performance (operational or theater level of war and tactics of divisions to brigades). They have applied this thorough and enlightening analysis to the present volume. This focus makes for an excellent "operational history" of the war. The emphasis is on the work of armies, corps and divisions in theater-level operations, as opposed to the tales of derring-do at the company or platoon level. However, one gets a good sense of the plight of the men at the point of contact. The field commanders are thoroughly and fairly assessed. Montgomery, for example, is given his due as a great planner and a great leader of men, but a testy martinet when it came to inter-allied coordination. I would say that our British cousins would not find any Monty-bashing here. Rommel likewise is fairly handled. Guderian's halo is removed; his role as a "good Nazi" does not detract from his reputation as a hard-charger, but his brashness in dealing with his colleagues in other units is brought out. Throughout, there is a constant interplay between the pre-war plans and preparations with the results of each operation. National temperament and command styles are neatly summarized. There is no waste of words. The text is gripping, concise and lively. There are no anecdotal asides --- one gets the impression that these two are writing from accumulated expertise over a long period rather than from note cards with colorful "filler" spliced in-- a fault of too many World War II books of late. Appendices on military organization, weapons systems, the art of war and the documentary sources are mini-encyclopedia in themselves. This book is indeed the definitive book on how the "war to be won" was, in fact, won by the allies and lost by the Axis. Highly recommended for both the knowledgeable buff and the novice.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Fact-Packed, Well-Written Overview of World War Two Von Barron Laycock I enjoyed reading this book, which is a bit off-putting due to its size and breadth. As long as one has a bit of time on his or her hands, this is a useful and entertaining way to spend some quality time with yourself in the company of two excellent history writers. The book has an amazing scope, and like Gerhard Weinberg's "A World At Arms" has a mammoth and daunting job at hand to describe the total scope and kaleidoscope of activities contained under the rubric of the second world war. The authors here are much more forthcoming than was Weinhard in discussing specific battlefield details of particular engagements, and this adds to the book's considerable value and readability to history buffs like myself. I enjoy their liberal employment of relevant economic, technological, geographical and other factors in describing the whos, hows, whens, wheres and whys of specific struggles as well as in describing the nature of the overall socio-political aspects of the war. So, when they subsequently launch into discussing their uniquely constructed "standards of military effectiveness", they add to its value by buttressing their findings with a wealth of different kinds of supporting data, information, and background that makes the total overview of the war much more understandable than it would be otherwise. The book does suffer from some minor drawbacks, such as the authors' obvious quarrel with the contributions and strategies of Douglas MacArthur, yet they are also suitably fastidious in pointing out his many contributions and effective tactics as well. This drawback is counterbalanced by an outstanding treatment covering the Nazi campaign against Russia, and the day to day details crammed into describing the ill-fated and terribly over-extended German occupation and troubles in Operation Barbarossa and in the subsequent crushing defeats at the hands of the Russian armies is worth the price of the book alone. In summary, I also believe their well-argued and documented take on the importance and lasting influence of the second world war is crucial in understanding all that followed in the balance of the 20th century to be well taken, and to be beyond reasonable dispute. In some respects (Such as level of detail regarding specific engagements) this is a better book than Weinberg's, and on other levels it falls short of his monumental work. Combined, the two books offer one an astounding and quite rich look at a war that we are just starting to appreciate in all of its amazing scope, ferocity, and consequence. This book should be required reading for anyone considering a career in 20th century history, or for all of us history nuts who just can't get enough of a great thing. Enjoy!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. a superlative, hard-eyed view of a catastrophe Von fastreader I've always thought that a single-volume history of WWII was an impossibility, but these gentlemen have carried it off. They move from theater to theater with the skill of novelists; they eschew the weasel word "Nazi" unless they're actually talking about the German political system; and they deride the conventional wisdom about the ineffectiveness of the Anglo-American bombing campaign. (Germany had 10,000 flak cannon targeted against Allied bombers, compared to 8,200 against Russian tanks. How different the war in the east would have been, if those 10,000 guns and 500,000 Luftwaffe gunners and support personnel had been freed for the eastern front!) The commanders fare rather badly. The authors detest MacArthur (no surprise there) but are equally harsh on Bradley, Clark, and King. Montgomery gets mixed reviews, as does Rommel and the German high command, most of whom were thorough-going Nazis with little grasp of strategy. Indeed, the only place where the German military gets unreserved praise is for its mastery of "combined arms" on the battlefield. Time and again, Allied armies fight isolated battles against a weaker German force that prevails (or at least escapes) by virtue of the fact that air, armor, infantry, and artillery worked together, and this across the entire front. Japanese commanders get off more lightly--they accomplished so much with so little--but the brutality of the Japanese military still sickens after all these years. The same of course is true of the German military, and not just in the east. (Americans who get bent out of shape over the execution of Private Slovik should know that between 13,000 and 15,000 German soldiers were executed for subversion, desertion, or disobedience in the front lines--not to mention

tens of thousands sent to near-certain death in penal battalions.) The difference really comes down to numbers: the Japanese murdered their captives by the hundreds of thousands, while the Germans murdered them by the millions. They were rogue nations, and God protect us from seeing their like again."A War To Be Won" has errors and omissions, of course--no two men can get everything right with respect to the greatest catastrophe of the 20th century, if not all human history. But what a great try!

KurzbeschreibungIn the course of the twentieth century, no war looms as profoundly transformative or as destructive as World War II. Its global scope and human toll reveal the true face of modern, industrialized warfare. Now, for the first time, we have a comprehensive, single-volume account of how and why this global conflict evolved as it did. A War To Be Won is a unique and powerful operational history of the Second World War that tells the full story of battle on land, on sea, and in the air. Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett analyze the operations and tactics that defined the conduct of the war in both the European and Pacific Theaters. Moving between the war room and the battlefield, we see how strategies were crafted and revised, and how the multitudes of combat troops struggled to discharge their orders. The authors present incisive portraits of the military leaders, on both sides of the struggle, demonstrating the ambiguities they faced, the opportunities they took, and those they missed. Throughout, we see the relationship between the actual operations of the war and their political and moral implications. A War To Be Won is the culmination of decades of research by two of Americas premier military historians. It avoids a celebratory view of the war but preserves a profound respect for the problems the Allies faced and overcame as well as a realistic assessment of the Axis accomplishments and failures. It is the essential military history of World War II from the Sino-Japanese War in 1937 to the surrender of Japan in 1945 for students, scholars, and general readers alike. PressestimmenIt is the most complete, balanced, and well-informed history of military operations now available.--James J. Sheehan "Political Science Quarterly "KurzbeschreibungIn the course of the twentieth century, no war looms as profoundly transformative or as destructive as World War II. Its global scope and human toll reveal the true face of modern, industrialized warfare. Now, for the first time, we have a comprehensive, single-volume account of how and why this global conflict evolved as it did. A War To Be Won is a unique and powerful operational history of the Second World War that tells the full story of battle on land, on sea, and in the air. Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett analyze the operations and tactics that defined the conduct of the war in both the European and Pacific Theaters. Moving between the war room and the battlefield, we see how strategies were crafted and revised, and how the multitudes of combat troops struggled to discharge their orders. The authors present incisive portraits of the military leaders, on both sides of the struggle, demonstrating the ambiguities they faced, the opportunities they took, and those they missed. Throughout, we see the relationship between the actual operations of the war and their political and moral implications. A War To Be Won is the culmination of decades of research by two of Americas premier military historians. It avoids a celebratory view of the war but preserves a profound respect for the problems the Allies faced and overcame as well as a realistic assessment of the Axis accomplishments and failures. It is the essential military history of World War II from the Sino-Japanese War in 1937 to the surrender of Japan in 1945 for students, scholars, and general readers alike.