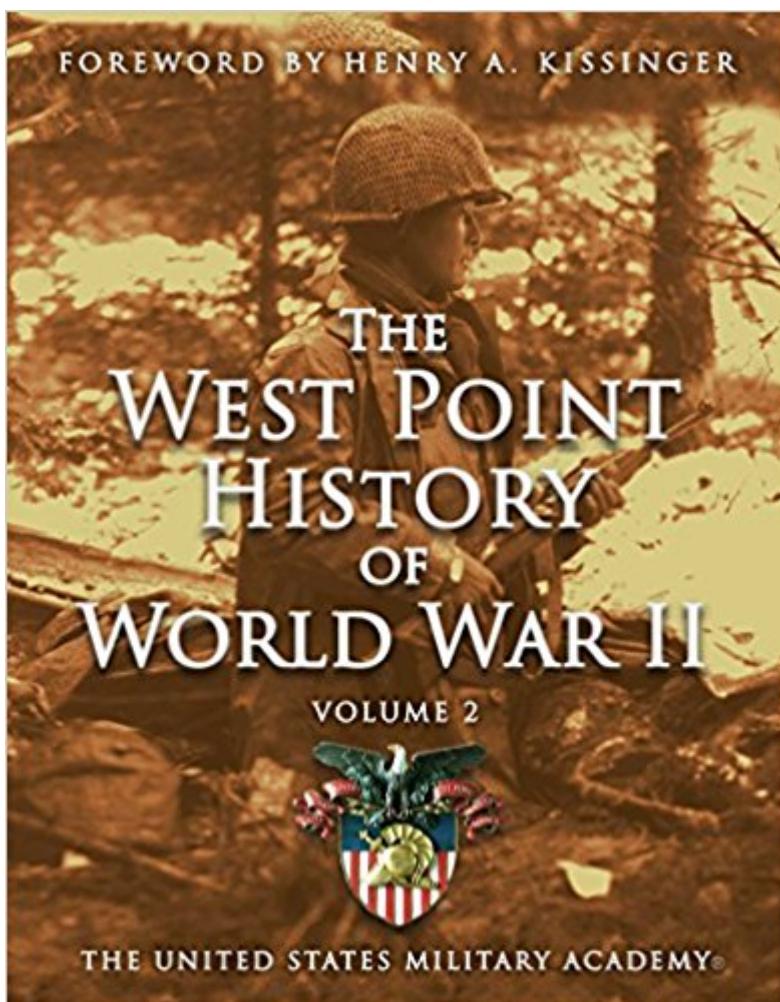


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West Point History Of World War II, Vol. 2 (The West Point History Of Warfare Series)



Synopsis

The definitive, must-have military history of World War II—spanning 1942 until the end of the war—packed with the same expert analysis, exclusive tactical maps, unique graphics, and historical images used by The United States Military Academy at West Point to teach the art of war to its own cadets. Since its founding, West Point has taught its cadets the history of warfare, and since 1847 it has done so through a singular text, *The West Point History of Warfare*. That text has been updated repeatedly, and now through a unique partnership with West Point graduates, *The West Point History of Warfare* has been completely rewritten. Volume 1 concluded with the midpoint of World War II in 1942, which is where this latest edition begins, covering all aspects of the war in chapters such as “Strategic Seapower and Airpower” by Richard J. Overy, “The Defeat of Japan” by Robert W. Love, Jr., “The Allies Turn the Tide” by Robert M. Citino, and “Occupation, Demobilization, and Assessing Victory” by Steve R. Waddell. As with previous volumes, *The West Point History of World War II*, Volume 2 boasts rich, full-color illustrations with unique tactical maps created by expert cartographers in collaboration with West Point’s military historians, as well as dozens of graphics uniquely created for this volume and hundreds of historical images, many of which are from the West Point archives. Authoritative, compelling, a goldmine for history lovers, this essential resource belongs in the library of every serious student of World War II.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The United States Military Academy at West Point is a four-year federal service academy established in 1802 to educate and train students as future officers in the military. Since 1836, West Point has published and frequently updated for its cadets definitive military history texts, now including The West Point History of Warfare series, the most important and insightful overview of military history to date.

Classic West Point product on military history. Great maps, photos, and lessons learned. A must for anyone interested in the art of war and/or history.

As a graduate I am always interested in the material used currently at USMA.

These West Point series are real good stuff. Very informative.

The publisher's description, while accurate, oversells the details contained within. Someone who hasn't read detailed analysis of battles and individuals experiences will benefit from the discussion of the western, eastern, and Japanese fronts (including the naval action). As is common in Western books, there is limited discussion of the eastern front and the unique environmental conditions that had such an impact. If you have an extensive background, then I will comment on some areas of the book that you might enjoy. The notes section in the back provides details including the author's opinion of books that cover specific events and topics. Many post war studies were conducted regarding the motivations, resources, strategy, and execution of the combatant nations. The conclusions are summarized. Post war logistics, plans, and amount of success are discussed. Brief acknowledgement is made of the 14 million Germans expelled from Eastern Europe and the Russians forcefully repatriated to gulags and execution but no numbers of deaths. If you wondered about burials, MIAs, etc. there is some commentary. There are some comments that might surprise you. The German delay at Kursk is supported but the battle was a disaster. The Russians are given a pass for the Warsaw Uprising due to small numbers and exhaustion. The planned invasion of Japan in November, 1945 had critics of the logistics. Anti-nuke crusaders will not find anything to support their position in this book. 15 B-29s were ready to drop A-bombs as soon as they were manufactured. In covering the war in China, there is no mention of the alliance between Chiang and Mao. Mao deliberately avoided major combat with the Japanese while brutally expanding his control over territory. This is what led to the Communist victory in 1949. This background should have been included in the chapter that explains the development of the

Cold War. I assume that West Point uses other textbooks to parse individual battle strategies and options (including that of individual units) because the 2 volumes do not even consider that level of combat.

Volume II picks up where Volume I left off, and with the same elegant style and content. This book, like Volume I, is clearly a survey document: enough detail to make a point, but not the detail present in a multi-hundred page book on a specific topic. But as an overview book, it is unsurpassed and will be tremendously valuable to any dedicated reader, from a Ph.D to a hobbyist. The campaign maps are beautiful to the eye and are well annotated to explain who-did-what-when-and-where. The data graphs are some of the best I have ever seen; proportionally-sized symbols make it easy to understand data. The side-bar boxes are on point and illustrative. Time-lines put complicated events in chronological perspective, making it easy to learn who-did-what-when. And the introduction by Dr. Kissinger seals the deal. Simply superb. Enough said.

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