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Killing Japan: The Final Year Of World War II



Synopsis

World War II was the bloodiest war in human history, but nowhere was the fighting more vicious than in the final year of fighting in the Pacific Theater. Famously described by John Dower as a "War Without Mercy," the conflict saw two increasingly adamant and embittered opponents fighting island by island, plane by plane, tunnel by tunnel, and life by life as the Allies continued their inexorable push to the Japanese homeland. Tragedy compounded tragedy as hundreds of thousands of American and Japanese soldiers died on beaches, in rainforests, and in ditches, or alone among the quiet waves of the Pacific. In thrilling new history, Michael O'Brien guides the reader from famous battles like Iwo Jima and Okinawa to lesser-known areas of the war, including the rainforest battles of Burma and Borneo and the contributions of Australian and New Zealand forces. The tale includes giants of history like Douglas MacArthur, Albert Einstein, and Mao Zedong as well as the Gurkhas and Chindits of the British front lines and the Japanese civilians who survived Hiroshima. This is a story of heroism and sacrifice, tragedy and triumph, that will never be forgotten.

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Customer Reviews

“When You Go Home, Tell Them of Us and Say, For your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today.” World War II is the most devastating (in property and human losses) war than any other in recorded history. The five years of war raged throughout the world, leaving few countries unscathed. After the Japanese surprise attack on the US 7th Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, President Franklin Roosevelt, inspired by Civil War general U.S. Grant, declared that nothing short of unconditional surrender would be acceptable. This hard-line policy extended fighting long after the ultimate outcome was obvious and undoubtedly cost tens of thousands extra lives. On the morning of Sunday, December 7, 1941, 353 Japanese warplanes, launched from six aircraft carriers. With the loss of over two thousand lives and two battleships, prompted the United States, Great Britain, Australia, Canada, and the Netherlands to declare war on Japan the following day, thus expanding the war to world proportions. In November 1942 was the decisive moment and turning point in the war in the Pacific, but the war would continue for almost three years longer, causing untold casualties and suffering. The German defeat at Stalingrad on the second of February, 1943 and the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944, marked the beginning of the end in Europe but the bullets continued to fly for almost a year. Each life lost in a war is one too many. This book outlines the allied warpath to Japan and the relative human losses (on both sides) on this island-hopping excursion. When faced with the numbers of casualties, it is hard to comprehend how (and why) the Japanese continued to fight and die.

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