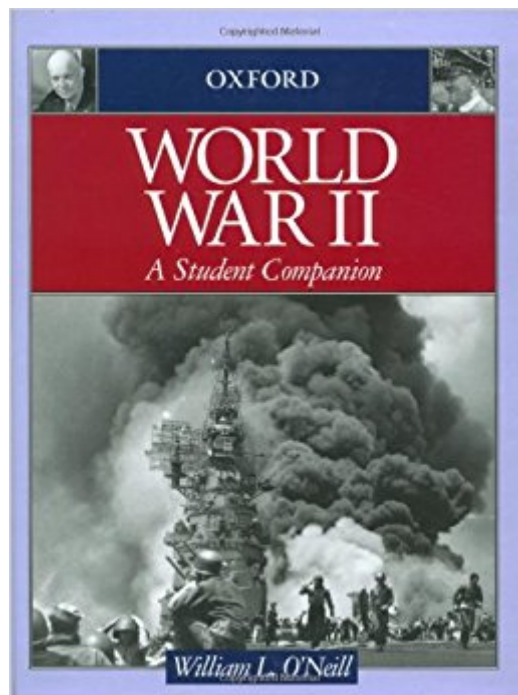


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World War II: A Student Companion (Student Companions To American History)



Synopsis

World War II was the bloodiest and farthest-reaching military conflict in human history, which resulted in the annihilation of some 60 million people. This authoritative and thorough volume summarizes the essential information regarding the war in vibrant, accessible entries. It features:

- * brief biographical portraits of notable military and political leaders, from Bradley to Zhukov
- * informative analyses of significant battles and political events, from blitzkrieg to Yalta
- * details on military organizations, army, navy, and air force units, and theaters of war
- * descriptions of individual weapon classes, from flame throwers to U-boats
- * insightful articles on war-related issues, such as home front and financing the war
- * profiles of the key participating countries
- * explanation of war-specific terms, such as unconditional surrender and civil defense
- * entries on lesser known topics--including Navajo code breakers and Afrika corps
- * Further reading lists following each entry
- * A list of museums and historical sites, including on-line information
- * A complete chronology of important dates
- * Cross-references following each entry

While focusing primarily on the American war effort, the author has incorporated extensive material about the other major participants in the conflict--notably the Soviet Union, Germany, Japan, Great Britain, France, Italy, and China. O'Neill does not hesitate to tackle controversial issues--from the atomic bomb to the lack of an American heavy tank. Over 220 photographs and maps, and a detailed index make *World War II: A Student Companion* an excellent introductory resource for students and readers interested in modern history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up-A readable, concise, and informative book. Organized alphabetically with brief articles ranging in length from a single paragraph to over four pages, the book is illustrated with black-and-white photographs, maps, and reproductions. The text will answer readers' questions and probably inspire further research. Almost every article is cross-referenced and contains a bibliography. Minor problems include occasional moments of editorializing and some quirkiness in the discussion of "Motion Pictures." Although the information presented is pretty standard and much of it might be found in a good encyclopedia, students will find it helpful to have everything in one easy-to-use volume. Herman Sutter, Saint Pius X High School, Houston, TX Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From frank evaluations of ordinance and strategy ("MacArthur's defense of the Philippines could hardly have been worse") to accounts of the treatment of women and African-Americans in the armed services, this wide-ranging alphabetical compendium of topical and biographical articles goes a long way toward filling in the blanks for young students of the war. O'Neill keeps jargon to a minimum, ends most entries with reading lists, uses plenty of cross references, and includes World Wide Web sites in the back matter. The illustrations, a perfunctory smattering of tiny black-and-white maps and photos, are a weak point, but the author presents information with the succinct clarity that is essential in the best quick-reference tools. (index, not seen, chronology, bibliography) (Nonfiction. 12-15) -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

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