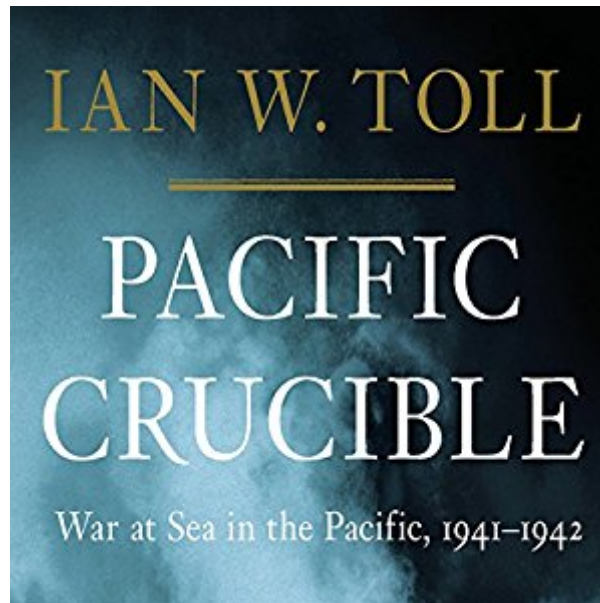




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Pacific Crucible: War At Sea In The Pacific, 1941-1942



Synopsis

Audie Award Nominee, History, 2013 The planning, the strategy, the sacrifices and heroics - on both sides - illuminating the greatest naval war in history. On the first Sunday in December 1941, an armada of Japanese warplanes appeared suddenly over Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and devastated the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Six months later, in a sea fight north of the tiny atoll of Midway, four Japanese aircraft carriers were sent into the abyss. *Pacific Crucible* tells the epic tale of these first searing months of the Pacific war, when the U.S. Navy shook off the worst defeat in American military history and seized the strategic initiative. Ian W. Toll's dramatic narrative encompasses both the high command and the "sailor's-eye" view from the lower deck. Relying predominantly on eyewitness accounts and primary sources, *Pacific Crucible* also spotlights recent scholarship that has revised our understanding of the conflict, including the Japanese decision to provoke a war that few in the country's highest circles thought they could win. The result is a pause-resistant history that does justice to the breadth and depth of a tremendous subject.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Best war narrative I have ever read. I read history, particularly military history, and this is absolutely the best. This is a page turner of a narrative history of the Pacific Naval War in WWII from Pearl Harbor to the Battle of Midway. The author is a spellbinding narrator who compellingly gives an overall view of the theater, the players, the strategy, and the feel of the battles. He does not get lost in the weeds, though he gives a good description of which weeds are important. This book goes from what was important about Alfred Thayer Mahan's 1890s book (*The Influence of Seapower*

Upon History) to why those concepts were replaced (air power). It gives a brief narrative of the important personalities in the Pacific Theater (Admirals Yamamoto, King, Nimitz, Halsey, Spruance). It describes the overall strategy from Pearl Harbor to Midway (stopping the Japanese advance, avoiding major air power loss, breaking the Japanese code, destroying the Japanese Naval air power). And it describes the experience of the major naval battles from the perspective of the men who participated. I literally could not put this book down until I had finished it. I am now moving on to the author's second volume.

I've been reading WWII books for 30 years and most every book about Pearl Harbor and most of them about Midway that I can lay my hands on. I really thought after some of them that I highly recommend such as "the Battle of Midway" by Symonds and "Shattered Sword" by Parshall & Tully there really wasn't much else to be said about the early Pacific war (these are outstanding books both of them and must reads for the serious student of the battle). But I was wrong Pacific Crucible goes beyond the battle into the minds and politics of the American, British and Japanese leaders. It becomes very understandable why and how certain decisions were made and risks taken. This is a great book and highly recommended. There was a lot of background that I haven't seen covered in this amount detail before. This isn't a casual read, but a serious text and look underneath the decisions.

I am not much of a student of history, more of a casual reader of things that interest me and that often includes historical events. WW2 has captured my interest lately, so I purchased this book based on the high reviews it received. I've never cared much for the naval side of warfare even though I spent 11 yrs in the Navy. But, after being exposed to the Pacific theater through HBO's series and reading the books associated with it, this book seemed like a good way to gain a better understanding of the big picture. When it came in the mail, it was slated to make it to the top of the "to read" stack in a few months. But, once I opened it I couldn't put it down. The book starts with Pearl Harbor and draws you in right away. He does a terrific job throughout the book of providing an overview of the battles and mixing in the first hand accounts in a way that is not disjointed and keeps the narrative moving. I often get frustrated by authors that stop the action to give you a multi-page intro and biography of a newly introduced character in a way that completely kills the momentum. He is one of the few that didn't let me down in that regard. I blasted right through this book, and have already ordered the next in the series. I think he does a wonderful job of bringing in the important players, and giving you just enough to shape your knowledge sufficient for a good

understanding of the story. There probably isn't enough detail for the hard-core history folks but for someone like me, it was perfect. I can't recommend it highly enough!

Great book with plenty of detail on the first year and half of WW2 in the Pacific. There is one small omission that the author should address in the next release. Gay is mentioned as the lone survivor of a botched torpedo attack. But the author doesn't explain how he was rescued. If your wondering, as I was, Wikipedia has your answer. It saddens me to know that most people under age 40 do not know much about the atrocities committed by Japan in WW2. 10,000,000 Chinese non-combatants murdered should not be forgotten. Wake Island & the Philippians should be remembered. Plus the incredible determination of American troops at Midway. Everyone needs to stop reading junk action novels and start reading real action.

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