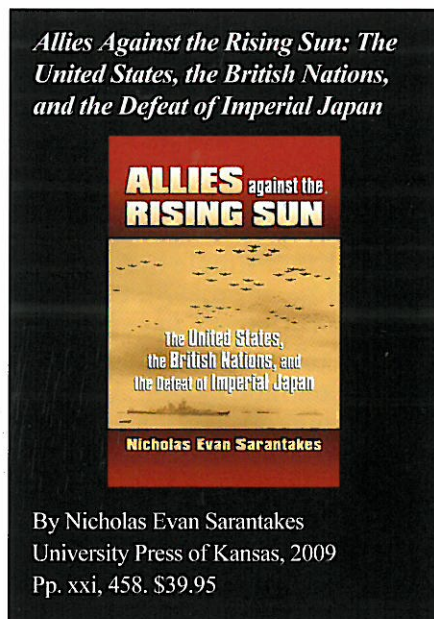


Equipped with copious footnotes and a well-organized bibliography, the author goes beyond the analysis of policy and strategy and dissects each major unit's deployment. In his analysis of the actual physical reinforcement effort, Williford not only catalogs the establishment and fortification of several installations, but also examines the mission and manifests of no less than four major task forces, eighteen convoys, and twenty-five individual supply vessels. In one example of the author's effort to support his thesis, he returns to General Marshall's decision to fortify the Philippines and asserts that the resulting September 1941 deployments of the 200th Coast Artillery Regiment and the 194th Tank Battalion to the Philippine Islands were invaluable to the early phases of the war in the Pacific. Although only a part of a much larger force that ultimately faced the Japanese onslaught, the deployment of the 200th and 194th represents one of the first collaborative efforts between the U.S. armed forces and the Maritime Commission to establish and maintain a transportation network in the western Pacific. In terms of the organizational steps taken by the Army and Navy to establish airborne lines of communication with the Pacific territories, Williford provides examples such as aircraft pioneer and Pan American Airways founder Juan Trippe's first journeys across the western Pacific in 1935 to find and establish intermediate landing stops for future endeavors. In what was anything but routine, Pan Am flights throughout the late 1930s traveled from San Francisco to Oahu, Midway, Wake, Guam, and finally Clark Field in the Philippines. These flights ultimately provided the logistical legwork for the Army Air Corps' first trans-pacific flight by the 14th Bomb Squadron's B-17 Flying Fortresses in September 1941.

At several points in each of the chapters, the author defends his arguments with quality primary resources and oral histories from personnel that served in the Pacific

theater. For example, when Williford describes the establishment of the Hawaiian Department's air warning system comprised of three fixed and six mobile radar sites, he quotes the commanding officer in charge as to the importance of the project. The author also consulted War Department records for many technical details. Furthermore, the author's work is equipped with a helpful number of maps and tables. Although Williford's effort to support his central thesis is as dynamic as it is meticulous, his work is at times repetitive. However, the author's use of original source material makes *Racing the Sunrise* a useful introductory text for any Second World War history class and to those in search of a more detailed catalog of American military deployments in the Pacific.

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#### REVIEW BY ROBERT J. THOMPSON

In *Allies Against the Rising Sun*, historian Nicholas Evan Saran-

takes concentrates on how politics influenced the inclusion of British Commonwealth forces in the Pacific theater. Questions of consequence to Sarantakes are, Why did the British want to participate in operations near Japan and in the invasion of the Japanese home islands, and why, during the planning of the invasion, were American units, with their superior firepower, replaced by British and Commonwealth forces? In answering these questions, the author concludes that the fates of the territories of the United States and British Commonwealth were interconnected. Indeed, the British recognized that restoring the empire required working alongside the United States to defeat Japan, which in turn contributed greatly to the mutual goal of solidarity in a postwar world.

The challenge of cooperation between the U.S. and the British Commonwealth forces is a prevalent topic within the vast body of literature on the Second World War, and on the Pacific War in particular. Many scholars, like Christopher Thorne and John J. Sbrega in their books *Allies of a Kind: The United States, Britain, and the War Against Japan, 1941-1945* (New York, 1978), and *Anglo-American Relations and Colonialism in East Asia, 1941-1945* (New York, 1983), respectively, emphasize the disagreements between the United States and the British Commonwealth. Sarantakes takes a different approach. He sets out to demonstrate that the English-speaking allies understood the need to work together and overcome their "honest differences," by which he examines the interplay between the U.S. and the British Commonwealth forces during the final months of the war against Imperial Japan (p. 10).

*Allies Against the Rising Sun* benefits from extensive primary research. Particularly vital are the diplomatic and military archival materials that Sarantakes' accessed in the United States, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and Can-

ada. From these sources, he is able to re-create the independent voices of the British Commonwealth. Indeed, by providing insight into key politicians and generals, the author stresses the impact of varying personalities in the decision-making process and offers a positive assessment of American and British relations. Although disagreements arose over how best to include British and Commonwealth forces in the fight against Imperial Japan, military and political leaders eventually reached acceptable arrangements because they all recognized that the state of the postwar world relied on their cooperation. While many historians, stressing the complexities and daily disagreements between the alliance partners, have suggested that the relationship between the United States and the Commonwealth was strained, Sarantakes argues that the alliance was in fact strong and stable, thanks to its ability to set aside reasonable differences and achieve political harmony.

By 1943, the United States distrusted Britain's imperial motives, viewing it more as a junior partner in the alliance. The creation of a British strategy in the Pacific was irrefutably tied to this understanding; while Prime Minister Winston Churchill and the Chiefs of Staff Committee—including Admiral of the Fleet Sir Andrew Browne Cunningham, Chief of the Imperial General Staff Sir Alan Brooke, and Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Charles Portal—cared about the future of the British Empire and wanted to ensure the existence of British influence in the Pacific region. They also understood that inclusion of the British Commonwealth forces in the overall Pacific strategy required the approval of the President of the United States and Joint Chiefs of Staff. Sarantakes argues that the British were divided over how to assist in the destruction of the Japanese Empire. Churchill, ever the defender of the British Empire, saw the reclaiming of Britain's Asian possessions

as the means of restoring prestige and respect, and thus he favored independent operations to recapture lost territories, like Singapore, with British forces. Conversely, the British Chiefs of Staff saw fighting alongside the United States in the Central Pacific as the best way of saving the empire and cementing an alliance with the Americans that would last beyond the Second World War. Sarantakes contends that while both parties were concerned with Britain's future, the means to that end proved controversial. Ultimately, the British Chiefs of Staff won the debate, with American support, by convincing Churchill of the political benefits of British and Americans forces fighting side by side.

Like Britain, the Commonwealth nations sought participation in the downfall of Japan. With their own hopes of playing significant roles in the postwar world, the Dominions of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand had varying interests in the Pacific region. Each faced internal debates over participation in the proposed invasion of Japan; so impassioned were Australia's arguments that it never did decide on its role in the operation. Sarantakes contends that because these nations were part of the Pacific sphere of influence, they sought long-term postwar roles in the region. In addition, all three wanted the British to remain active in the Pacific.

More than a simple narrative on the Royal Navy's role off Okinawa, Chapter 10 brings together the forces of the United States and the British Commonwealth. A symbol of the Commonwealth, Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser's British Pacific Fleet (BPF), with crews and ships from across the empire entered the fray off Okinawa on 26 March 1944. The need of the British to show solidarity with the American people and the Commonwealth drove the British to overcome the complex logistical and supply constraints of deploying the BPF. Sarantakes argues that despite the Royal Navy's lack of experience in long deployments, it

proved its worth in surviving kamikaze attacks. Designed to survive intense aerial assaults, the British carriers had steel decks which, unlike wooden decks of their American and Japanese counterparts, made them far less vulnerable to catastrophic fires. The survivability of the British carriers, and the determination of their crews, placed them in high regard among their American allies. Nevertheless, U.S. Admiral Ernest King tried to prevent the BPF from encroaching on operations under his jurisdiction. In Chapter 14, Sarantakes states that King attempted to force the BPF away from the major combat operations off Okinawa. King's action risked damaging America's diplomatic relationship with the British, thus Admirals Fraser, Chester W. Nimitz, and Raymond Spruance kept the Royal Navy involved in operations off Okinawa.

In sum, *Allies Against the Rising Sun* provides a comprehensive and detailed account of the inclusion of British Commonwealth forces in the latter stages of the war in the Pacific. Readers will enjoy the background information Sarantakes provides on leaders and events. Furthermore, scholars will appreciate Sarantakes' weaving of political and military issues into a cohesive and informative narrative. The author makes a valuable contribution to the historiography of the Second World War and U.S.-British Commonwealth relations.

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