

blaming Germany in order to rally support against the Soviet Union. Germans didn't really start to blame themselves for the Holocaust until war trials for atrocities on the Russian front in the early 1960s.

Visual propaganda emphasized and informed the ideal values of the United States. Only films that gave a positive look at American culture were allowed into German theaters. Goldstein looks at some interesting test cases, including a short cartoon titled *The Brotherhood of Man*. This film proclaimed that all races were equally gifted and could excel if given the same opportunities. Interestingly, the film was prevented from being shown, because, as undersecretary of the Army William Draper, Jr., bigotedly argued, the film was scientifically flawed and untrue.

The most glaring flaw in the book, which happens to be about visual propaganda, is the low quality and number of illustrations. There are only 16 pages of black and white photographs (mostly pictures of concentration camps, generals, and artists). More pictures would have been useful, particularly as the text frequently discusses and analyzes works of art that are not depicted in the book.

Capturing the German Eye is interesting from a historical standpoint and useful for a psychological warfare and nation building perspectives. Its short length and narrow focus prevent it from being the definitive work on the occupation of Germany, but it does shed light on the use of visual propaganda. The book also shows how governmental policy can change the use of propaganda and how informal relationships between soldiers and artists can shape the cultural scene of an occupied nation. This is an important lesson for an Army that is trying to influence a largely illiterate Afghanistan.

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THE ALLIES AGAINST THE RISING SUN: The United States, The British Nations, and the Defeat of Imperial Japan, Nicholas Evan Sarantakes, University Press

of Kansas, Lawrence, 2009, 458 pages, \$39.95.

Nicholas Evan Sarantakes' *Allies Against the Rising Sun* covers a period in World War II history that has not received much attention. In his book, he explores British and Commonwealth strategies against Japan from the perspectives of the Allies. The author, a U.S. Naval War College professor, has written two previous books about the end of World War II in the Pacific. He extensively researched the subject and has delivered a superb history and analysis.

Sarantakes sets out to answer three questions. Why did the Commonwealth nations wish to contribute forces to the defeat of Japan when their people were tired of war and desired other options? Why did the United Kingdom want to participate in the operation against Japan? And, why did the United States agree to British and Commonwealth participation even though it meant displacing American units that had more firepower? Sarantakes answers these questions with his analysis.

The book's strength lies in the author's portrayal of the principal civilian and military decision makers. He believes "most histories present individuals as 'plastic figures' and wants to present the people as 'human beings' with real lives and emotions, living and working under some of the most trying conditions imaginable." In this aspect, he succeeds brilliantly. The major players come alive in the book as Sarantakes discusses their strengths and weaknesses and how they affected the decision makers. The reader realizes that even with high-stake decisions, people are not beyond human frailties. Despite policy and political differences, the author shows that the nations in fact were united.

Allies Against the Rising Sun is thus an examination of coalition warfare. Sarantakes makes extensive use of notes, diaries, and autobiographies of the decision makers. The book offers an excellent portrayal and study of strategic decision making, the complexity of national interests, and the interplay between

the main players. The author looks at both sides of the issues and confronts some previous conclusions about this period of history, in particular the use of the atomic bomb and the invasion of Japan. These decisions have always sparked controversy and Sarantakes offers his analysis based on the evidence he uncovers.

In the end, this book is about civil military relations, the compromises leaders make, and how political interests can affect military operations. The price nations are willing to pay to further their interests is especially telling. The author is frank and pulls no punches. For example, he labels "stunningly irresponsible," Australia's decision to remain on good terms with General Douglas MacArthur even if it meant sending Australian troops on a dubious operation. Overall, the book is an engaging history that covers operational, political, and diplomatic problems. I recommend it to all readers.

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THE BATTLE OF SURIGAO STRAIT, Anthony P. Tully, Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis, 2009, 352 pages, \$27.95.

During the Pacific War, the Japanese navy followed its prewar plans and pursued a decisive encounter with the American fleet. There are numerous examples of Japanese commanders' operational and tactical improvisational brilliance from the attack on Pearl Harbor to the Battle of Tassafaronga. However, the prewar plans deserted them in the final period of the war. The pursuit of a decisive naval victory led to the destruction of their naval air power in the Philippine Sea and the devastation and isolation of their surface fleet at Leyte Gulf.

The battle of Leyte Gulf unfolded in three parts: the battle in the Surigao Strait, the battle to protect the transport ships, and Halsey's pursuit of the Japanese aircraft carriers. Surigao Strait, a confusing night action, is portrayed as the last