

Excoriated by the “addicts of Communism,” who still parrot the “Party Line,” Eby nevertheless is clearly in the Republican camp, and very sympathetic to the men who served. If anything, he is even more critical of the leadership and purposes of the International Brigades, and of the American Communist Party that betrayed both, than he was in his earlier book. This work is an essential read for anyone interested in the Spanish Civil War, the improvisation of armies, and men under fire.

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**World War I**

*Capital Cities at War: Paris, London, Berlin, 1914-1918*, Vol. II, *A Cultural History*, edited by Jay Winter and Jean-Louis Robert. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007. Pp. xiii, 545. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$118.00. ISBN: 978-0-521-87043-6.

The theme of this impressive work is to be found in the Introduction, which is titled, “The Practice of Metropolitan Life in Wartime.” The book then examines different aspects of urban life in the three war capitals, noting similarities and differences, with some effort to analyze the reasons for these. The subject of the opening chapter may seem curious, devoted as it is to the railroad stations, yet it becomes clear that they were critical to wartime urban life, considering how often they appear in motion pictures about the war. The chapters that follow address the ways in which the war affected education, the home and family, street life, entertainment, religious and political life, and the city as a node of medical treatment, political life, memory and commemoration, and, ultimately, burial, all against the background of the war. A valuable read for anyone interested in the war or war and society.

*Beersheba: A Journey Through Australia's Forgotten War*, by Paul Daley. Carlton, Vic.: Melbourne University Press/Chicago: Independent Publishers Group, 2009. Pp. xii, 339. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$28.00 paper. ISBN: 978-0-522-85599-9.

Although at times a little overtly nationalistic, in *Beersheba*, Australian journalist Daley gives the reader a look at the role of Australian troops in the Middle East during the Great War, focusing on the mounted infantry charge at Beersheba in 1917 that was commemorated in the 1987 film *The Lighthorsemen*. Daley gives the reader a good look at the origins and background of the men involved and an excellent outline history of the campaign. Then, with a good eye for ground, he gets into very detailed accounts of several battles, culminating in the attack on Beersheba. There are many excellent word portraits of interesting soldiers, some

famous and some not, and an interesting meditation on how the war and this particular part of it is remembered. Although some students of military history may take issue with some of his more purplish claims (“the largest force of men and beasts mounted since Alexander the Great.”), this is a good book about a largely forgotten theater of the war.

*All the Tsar's Men: Russia's General Staff and the Fate of the Empire, 1898-1914*, by John W. Steinberg. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010. Pp. xvii, 283. Illus., maps, tables, append., notes, biblio., index. \$60.00. ISBN: 978-0-8018-9545-6.

A very detailed look at the role of the Russian general staff in the development of the Tsarist army from the late 1890s through the Russo-Japanese War, and on to the outbreak of World War I. Prof. Steinberg (Georgia Southern) makes a compelling case that, in training and ability, Russian staff officers were as capable as any in Europe. Their ability to influence policy and, most importantly, operations, was, however, limited by the inherent defects of the regime, which denied them the autonomy and authority that their counterparts had in other armies. An important read for serious students of Russian military history, World War I, and the military staff.

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World War II: General

Allies Against the Rising Sun: The United States, the British Nations, and the Defeat of Japan, by Nicholas Evan Sarantakes. Lawrence, Ks.: University Press of Kansas, 2009. Pp. xxi, 458. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN: 978-0-7006-1669-5.

A study of the politicians, soldiers, sailors, and airmen who shaped Anglo-American wartime policies and strategy at the very highest levels, and their role in shaping what might have been the final act of the Pacific War: the invasion of the Japanese Home Islands. The focus of the work is the question of why Britain and the Commonwealth nations, despite war weariness at home, especially after having paid a horrendous price during nearly six years of war, were willing to take part in the ultimate bloodletting, and why the United States was willing to have them participate. Prof. Sarantakes (Naval War College) argues convincingly that both allies were looking ahead to the need to preserve the “special relationship” in the post war world. The work contains numerous word portraits of the principal military and political leaders involved, and addresses the many thorny issues that had to be ironed out, such as logistics and shipping allocations, basing, manpower availability, and inter-operability. It also further underscores the

seriousness of the proposal to invade Japan and the importance of the atomic bomb in bringing an end to the war. A necessary read for anyone interested in high strategy and in the question of the use of the atomic bomb.

Chewing Gum, Candy Bars, and Beer: The Army PX in World War II, by James J. Cooke. Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 2009. Pp. ix, 186. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN: 978-0-8262-1867-4.

Prof. Cooke (*Emeritus*, “Ole Miss”), author of several notable books on the AEF in World War I, gives the seemingly dry topic of the PX -- officially the “Army Exchange System” -- a lively, readable, and informative treatment. As the Army’s way of providing troops with the opportunity to buy non-issue items virtually anywhere in the world, the PX, or “Post Exchange,” was intended to replace the often corrupt sutlers of the Civil War and the canteen system of the First World War. The book looks at the subject both from the perspective of the customer, i.e., the troops who bought the goods, and the system’s organizers and operators, which forms the most interesting part of the book. The officers operating the PX system developed a vast network of suppliers and outlets, battling with bureaucrats over everything from access to goods to securing shipping space, while trying to figure out what the troops wanted and needed, with a number of amusing asides, such as how the PX planners overestimated the demand for make-up by Army nurses operating near the front lines. A good read for those interested in the American war of war.

African Americans in the United States Army in World War II, by Bryan D. Booker. Jefferson, NC: MacFarland Publishing, 2009. Pp. viii, 358. Illus., append., notes., biblio., index. \$75.00. ISBN: 978-0-7864-3194-3.

This work opens with a look at the role of black Americans in the Army during the First World War and in the interwar period, and an examination of the prevailing attitudes of white Americans, civilian as well as military, about the desirability of having African Americans serve, with the contingent excuses for exclusion, as well as the role of the African American press in keeping the issue alive, leading to wider participation in the Second World War. There then follows an often detailed treatment of how black Americans, women as well as men, served, often with great distinction, despite frequent open hostility from other military personnel and widespread abuses at the hands of the white public. The approach to the subject is essentially by arm of service; that is, the role of African Americans in combat service support units, the artillery, separate infantry regiments, armored

forces, and the three largely black divisions (2nd Cavalry and 92nd and 93rd Infantry), as well as the men who volunteered for infantry duty during the crisis of the Bulge and served more or less integrated in all white units. Refreshingly free of stridency of many earlier works on the subject, this would make valuable reading for anyone interested in the U.S. Army in the twentieth century.

War by Land, Sea, and Air: Dwight Eisenhower and the Concept of Unified Command, by David Jablonsky. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010. Pp. xiv, 386. Notes, biblio., index. \$35.00. ISBN: 978-0-300-15389-1.

This book covers the evolution of inter-service command in the armed forces, from “cooperation” at the start of the twentieth century, through the 1958 defense reorganization act. Jablonsky, a retired colonel in the army and a professor at the Army War College, rightly sees Eisenhower as a pivotal player in this development. He looks at how Eisenhower’s military career shaped his views on the subject, and how, given the demands of global conflict, Ike pressed for great unification not only of the American armed forces but of the Allied coalition as well and, later, during his political career, promoted the greater unification of the armed forces. A valuable read for those interested in the Allied command during World War II and in the formation of today’s military establishment.

The Men of Barbarossa: Commanders of the German Invasion of Russia, 1941, by Samuel W. Mitcham, Jr. Philadelphia: Casemate, 2009. Pp. vii, 296. Illus., maps, appends, notes, biblio. \$32.95. ISBN: 978-1-935149-15-6.

A look at the careers of many of the senior commanders of the German Army during the 1941 campaign in Russia. Not only are the famous marshals and army commanders here, but also many less noted generals, such as the chief of signals. Mitcham, who has written similar works on the senior German officers of the North African and Normandy campaigns, uses a chronological approach. He deals with the various officers as they appear in the narrative, thus giving the reader a good overview of the campaign, rather than listing the men in alphabetical order, which is the norm for biographical references. Each officer’s origins and early career is covered, with the most focus placed on his role at a particular time. The final chapter gives a short account of the fate of each man. A good book for anyone interested in the German Army in World War II or in the Eastern Front.