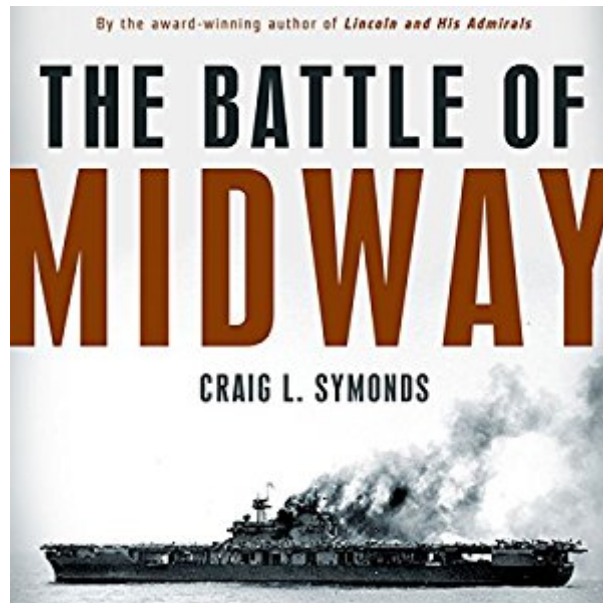




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The Battle Of Midway (Pivotal Moments In American History)



Synopsis

There are few moments in American history in which the course of events tipped so suddenly and so dramatically as at the Battle of Midway. At dawn of June 4, 1942, a rampaging Japanese navy ruled the Pacific. By sunset, their vaunted carrier force (the Kido Butai) had been sunk, and their grip on the Pacific had been loosened forever. In this absolutely riveting account of a key moment in the history of World War II, one of America's leading naval historians, Craig L. Symonds, paints an unforgettable portrait of ingenuity, courage, and sacrifice. Symonds begins with the arrival of Admiral Chester A. Nimitz at Pearl Harbor after the devastating Japanese attack and describes the key events leading to the climactic battle, including both Coral Sea - the first battle in history against opposing carrier forces - and Jimmy Doolittle's daring raid of Tokyo. He focuses throughout on the people involved, offering telling portraits of Admirals Nimitz, Halsey, Spruance, and numerous other Americans, as well as the leading Japanese figures, including the poker-loving Admiral Yamamoto. Indeed, Symonds sheds much light on the aspects of Japanese culture - such as their single-minded devotion to combat, which led to poorly armored planes and inadequate fire-safety measures on their ships - that contributed to their defeat. The author's account of the battle itself is masterful, weaving together the many disparate threads of attack - attacks which failed in the early going - that ultimately created a five-minute window in which three of the four Japanese carriers were mortally wounded, changing the course of the Pacific war in an eye-blink. Symonds is the first historian to argue that the victory at Midway was not simply a matter of luck, pointing out that Nimitz had equal forces, superior intelligence, and the element of surprise. Nimitz had a strong hand, Symonds concludes, and he rightly expected to win.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Exhaustively researched and well-written history of the most pivotal naval battle in the Pacific Theater in WWII. The many personal details of the men who fought it make for a very enjoyable read, not just a stuffy recitation of facts. It is like watching the movie "Midway" but with historical accuracy.

excellent read; very well written, interesting and informative. if nothing else, this discourse illustrates how fate, providence is involved in the fog and confusion of war. despite the infighting among military departments and the lack of coordination among commanders and flight groups, the us navy won a stunning victory that turned the tide of the war which had swung against us with the bombing of pearl harbor. like the victory of the Christians at venice that turned the moslem horde, and the defeat of Christianity at constantinople, history is much different for this outcome. as oft repeated, those who fail to learn or forget the lessons of history are doomed to repeat the mistakes; and this our erstwhile leaders seem intent on doing; see eg the determination of the us to give iran nuclear arms. may the outcome of this be as benign to us as the outcome of the war in the pacific.

I've read way too many books on world war two, but i'm not sure if I've really read a detailed account of the battle yet. It's just like the battle of coral sea, i've read many accounts of the battle in books, but never a book just about that battle before. I really enjoyed this book and finished it really quick. I loved the fact that i was able to purchase the audible companion for a very cheap price when i bought the kindle book, i wish many more books came with that option and at such a reduced price, a great value and service in my opinion. The one thing that stood about Mr Symonds book to me was he covered much more than the normal stories of the battle. Went into much greater details on code breaking and the actual air strikes. And the accounts of the Hornet's air group i thought was very compelling. I've seen that not everyone has bought into his theory regarding those strikes, but I think he made a very valid point and offered enough evidence to make you consider his claims. I always love to read a book where you really get to see the author's view and argument and where they do a great job of supporting their assertions. I think Mr Symonds did a great job and I will be looking forward to reading more of his books in the future.

Craig Symonds is quickly becoming one of my favorite authors on WWII as well as US Naval History

in general. I appreciate his writing style and ability to tell the story while giving details and facts that help put battles, situations and the situation the subject was facing at the time into clear perspective for the reader. He made it possible to see such a large or broadbrush view of the situations faced by the naval fighters in the Pacific at the time. His account of wargames held by the Imperial Naval staff prior to launching the battle fleet puts the critical piece to the puzzle on why such a large force, with already proven pilots and crews, lost such a critical battle to their enemy with a small amount of great intelligence and a large amount of luck. The first of Symonds books I read was "Decision at Sea: Five Naval Battles that Shaped American History". A great read and full of leadership lessons.

This makes me proud to be American. Some things should not be forgotten and forgiven so quickly. Revenge must have been sweet for these guys. This book should be mandatory reading for every American.

I first read about the Battle of Midway in 1963 when I was in Junior High. It seems we've learned more over the years in waves: declassification of the electronic intercepts, several bursts of memoirs and finally much more Japanese perspective driven by Parshall and Tully's (Shattered Sword) collaboration with Japanese historians made possible by the internet. While Shattered Sword is "must read" material for anyone interested in the Pacific War, it focuses on the Japanese side -- which isn't a big problem for those of us who grew up on the "Miracle at Midway." Symonds steps back and synthesizes all of our best information and tells an engaging and well written narrative. I felt the high points are (minor spoiler alert) that Yamamoto had already decided to attack Midway before the Doolittle Raid despite uncannily prescient staff misgivings, the complete ineffectiveness of Mitscher, the Hornet and its Air group (Waldron's insubordination did lead to the slaughter of VT-8 and subsequent exhaustion of the Japanese CAP which aided the successful attack by Enterprise and Yorktown's dive bombers). If you want to refresh your understanding of this pivotal battle -- and certainly the greatest and most heroic of American Naval victories -- this one is for you!

Excellent read with many details and stories within the stories of the Battle of Midway if you love the history of WW2 and particularly the Pacific Theatre of Operations you will love this book.

This is a fantastic account of the most important naval battle in the history of the US Navy. I was so impressed with it that I bought both the Kindle and Audible versions. Highly recommended!

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