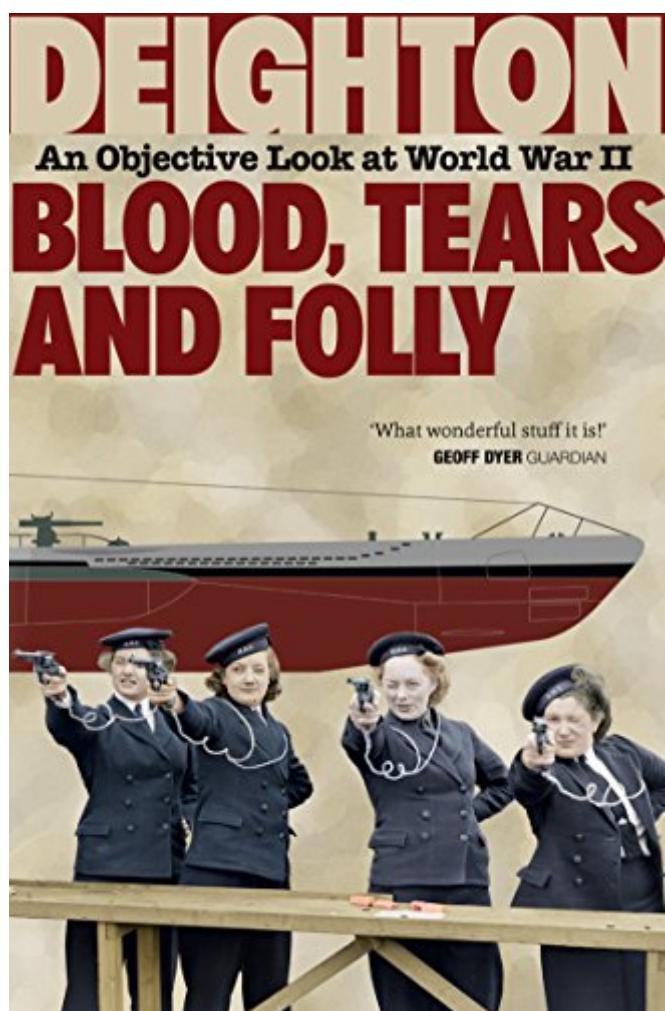


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# Blood, Tears And Folly: An Objective Look At World War II



## Synopsis

Drawing on the author's deep understanding of military life and the strengths and frailties of politicians and generals, this is a myth-puncturing analysis of the advent of the Second World War. "Blood, Tears and Folly" offers a sweeping and compelling historical analysis of six theatres of war: the Battle of the Atlantic, Hitler's conquest of western Europe, the war in the Mediterranean, the battle for the skies, Operation Barbarossa and the German assault on Russia, and the entry of Japan into a truly global war. This is the period during which the Allied powers were brought to the very brink of defeat. Deighton offers an unflinching account of the political machinations, the strategy and tactics, the weapons and the men on both sides who created a world of terror and millions of dead, of the Holocaust, and of nuclear devastation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a solid 4 stars if you have read a lot about WW2. It isn't a five because a lot of what you read will be stuff you already know about. However, as others point out, the author explains a lot of things that I hadn't read previously. For instance, Germany had a much bigger economy and capability to

produce weapons during the war but didn't do so. Deighton's explanation is the infighting within military services and Hitler's reluctance to repeat the rationing the German public went through in WW1. He also gives reasons why the Japanese didn't attack Russia instead of the other allies when going to war. I had read previous reasons which Deighton repeated but he added one I hadn't heard. It was that Hitler's non aggression pact with the USSR steered the Japanese away from a Russian attack since he never shared his long term strategy with them. Finally, he adds that the attack on the British bases in Asia was known in advance before Pearl Harbour because their fleet was seen by scouting aircraft and the Americans had intercepted messages to that effect. He quoted one American as saying on Dec 6th that the British would catch it tomorrow. What that person didn't know was that Pearl Harbour was also on the hit list because that fleet maintained total radio silence. I highly recommend the book. If you aren't familiar with WW2 I would rate this a 5 star book since there won't be any repetition for you.

This review is from: Blood, Tears, and Folly: An Objective Look at World War II (Paperback) I love this book, but I can see how some cherished lies get exposed, so I can understand why so many other reviewers qualify their enthusiasm. Haha, yes indeed, many lies have required millions of dollars to promote and Deighton just pulls out the figures and takes a sober look at them and quite often reveals a truth the elites wish were never said in public. Some other reviewer said it was tongue in cheek. I don't think so. It was the God's honest truth and some favorite lies are made quite unbelievable after Deighton examines the facts and figures, seen from an honest distance when many of the men benefiting from those lies are long since dead. No, don't believe the negative comments at all. Yes, he does jump backwards a few times because it is organized not chronologically but by a particular theme that he's examining such as air power or sea power. He looks at each point and then the next, so of course with each point of inquiry, he starts at the beginning and then moves forward. No, when you read other reviewers less than stellar comments, understand that he is likely shining the light of truth into some dark crevasses that reviewer likely wishes he didn't. We all have such golden myths that we cherish. I loved everything about this book and honestly I think it should be required reading for every history student. This one's a gem, honestly. :)

This novel seems to be documentary than a novel. The writer described towns, its people way of life, their concepts, etc. You may think that this would be real and sympathize the German as an innocent victim. I read almost all of Len Deighton's novels. "Winter ... " was his best. Dictatorship of

Hitler ( and also General Tojo) were not only bring their people to agony but also to mankind anywhere in this world. What was happened in the past is now in Syria and else where. If there is no intervention from outsider. It would come to an end by itself. I have no intention to criticize politics. But to encourage new generations to read books and study history as lessons to guide them to the right way of life.

As an objective point-of-view, this book is solid. I think some editing/polishing would serve this text as there were many places where the sentence structure, lack of workable punctuation, and even clearer use of gender pronouns (for example, in a sentence talking about two men, it shouldn't take a lot of analysis to determine which is the "he" or "him" being referred to by the writer). I think a lot of the analysis is a bit light and would do well with a bit deeper discussion, but overall, a good objective look upon matters WWII.

All this author's non-fiction books on WWII are unbiased from all Countries involved. Details second to none. My whole perspective of WWII history has changed in terms of what went on at highest levels of government good and bad without bias. Personally my favorite author on this subject. Sorry I have now read all of them. Heroes will get knocked down a couple rungs and villains will be given credit for talent and mistakes. Highly recommended. Happy Trails

I admit that I am a Len Deighton fan (particularly his factual books), but this is the best book of its type of WW2 that I have read. I have read his Bomber and Fighter recently and they are fantastic, but this is even better.

I think this was an excellent book although perhaps not universally accepted (as the author admits). It is not an alternate version of history but I think it gives a great deal of insight into what was going on behind the scene. I confess I am a great fan of anything that Deighton writes. Extensive references to all source material, it seems to be thoroughly researched and I woud heartily recommend it to any WW@ history buff.P.S. I am NOT a WW2 history buff

Beautifully written and entertaining to a high degree, and very well researched, this book destroys quite a number of World War II cinematic myths, e.g., the well-equipped invincibility of the Wehrmacht (in 1940, virtually the whole German army was horse-drawn--a major reason Hitler's invasion of Russia failed was lack of winter horseshoes!); and the brilliance of Douglas McArthur (he

learned of the attack on Pearl Harbor some eight hours before permitting his air force at Manila was destroyed on the ground).

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