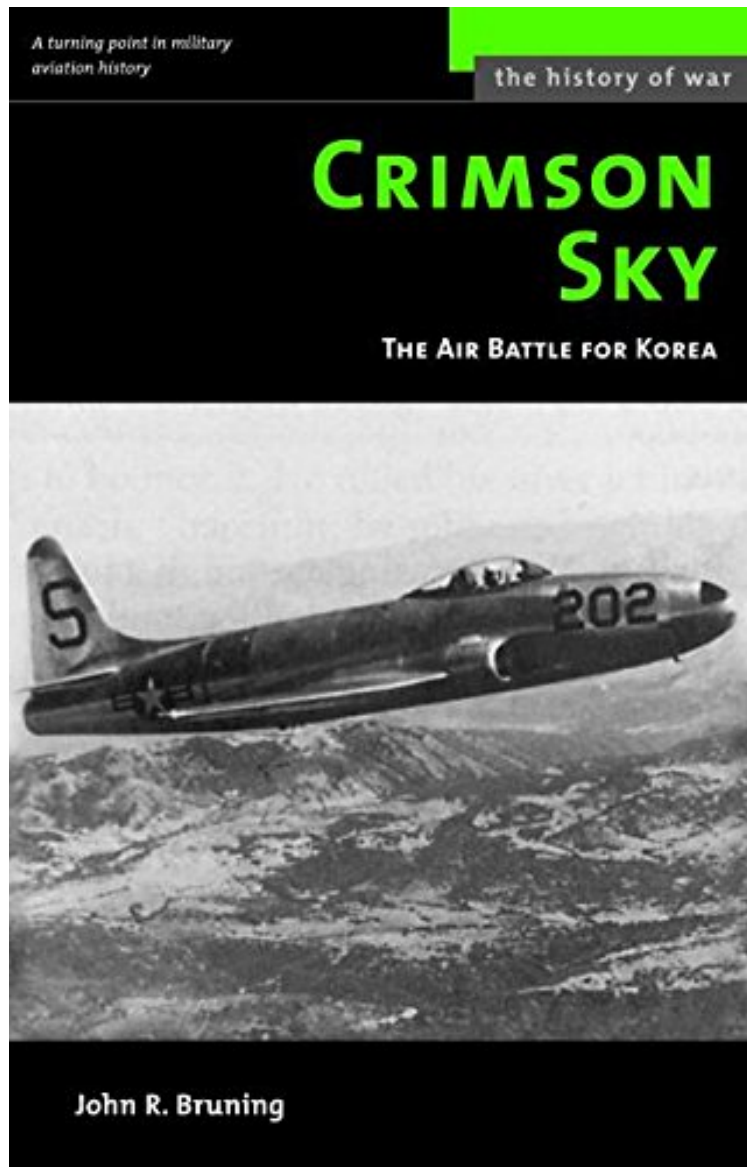


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Crimson Sky: The Air Battle for Korea (History of War)

John R. Bruning

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John R. Bruning : Crimson Sky: The Air Battle for Korea (History of War) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crimson Sky: The Air Battle for Korea (History of War):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A very good summary of US Air Warfare over Korea 1950 - 1953By Flying PhotographerNot much has been written about the Air War in Korea, and is it even more difficult finding a book that at least tries to cover the complete spectrum of air warfare that happened during these very long and hard four years between 1950 and 1953, and which encompasses so much more than the Sabre v/s MIG 15 dogfights.

Accordingly, this book was actually a nice surprise, since the author presents in episodes the stories of veterans he interviewed in a fast-paced, you-are-there style. The stories are well chosen, in that as a whole they show the full spectrum of the many very different aspects of air warfare in Korea, some of which were actually invented there. The drawback in this format is that at times it feels rather disjointed, and some interesting issues are only passingly mentioned if at all (like the Navy air attacks on ships and other naval targets). The book itself is printed in the cheap paperback format, with a few small BW pictures that actually do not add much to the book, but which is consistent with the rather cheap price. The text is printed in a rather small font size, and using small page margins, thus the page count does not really reflect the content (I would estimate 300+ pages printed in a regular format). This book is not the definitive history of the aerial warfare in Korea, for it also completely leaves out the contribution made by other UN Air Forces, but it is a very good and commendable attempt at showing a more general view of the fierce fighting over Korean skies, a history that is all but forgotten these days, eclipsed mainly by the huge amounts of publications related to the Vietnam war - as such, this is a highly recommended addition to your Korean Air War library. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Short Read on a Forgotten War By K. Ibarra This book offers a very informative exposition on air battles that happened during the Korean War, a conflict of which most Americans know very little. Although the book may be small in size, it is big in terms of explaining the air war from a combat aviator's perspective and further expands on how combat aviation evolved and adjusted to deal with the Communist threat that proved to be both formidable and lethal to the US pilots who fought in the conflict. This exposition is further balanced by the human element of the brave pilots who overcame hardships and put themselves in harms way because they felt it was the right thing to do. The author pulls no punches in explaining the fate of many of the pilots who, after being shot down, were killed, captured, and tortured by an enemy that placed little value on human life. It is a very compelling book that doesn't glorify war, but shows that when Americans are pushed, we push back, but do so honorably. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Reads like you are there By Todd B. Crimson Sky is an easy-to-read series of first-hand accounts skillfully written in a way that makes the reader feel like 'you are there' in the Korean War air operations covered. The Soviet perspective is even included in places where it fits. Much appreciated as well is the extensive coverage of 'they also served' types of aircraft and missions that are frequently mentioned only in passing in other publications on the subject. And, yes, the battles of MiG Alley also get their due coverage. Highly recommended for anyone interested in well-written 'you are there' stories of men and missions over Korea in 1950-53.

In the Korean War's unique combat environment, significant battles took place that profoundly affected the future of air warfare. *Crimson Sky* examines in detail twenty of the most interesting and representative aerial actions of the war.

"*Crimson Sky* fills a long-felt need in the literature of the Korean air war, for it combines a broad overview of the war with intimate details that put you in the cockpit. Showing his mastery of the subject, author John R. Bruning covers far more than the fabled bouts of the F-86 and MiG-15, and in doing so, shows us how very proud we should be of the men who fought 'the forgotten war.' The many personal accounts lend an immediacy to the book that makes it a real page-turner. The skies over Korea were in truth crimson, with the blood of brave American men who flew under extraordinary political handicaps." "You don't know the Korean War unless you've read this book." About the Author John R. Bruning is the author of *Jungle Ace: Col. Gerald R. Johnson, the USAAF's Top Fighter Leader of the Pacific War* (Brassey's, Inc., 2001). He lives near Portland, Oregon.