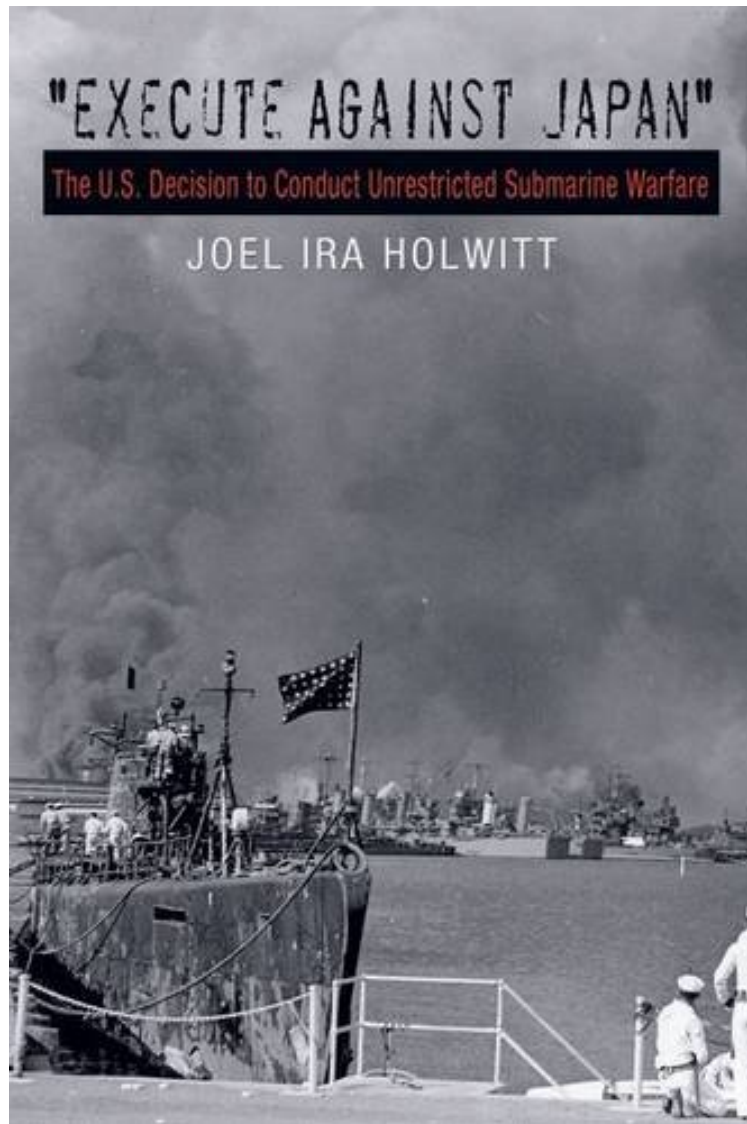


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"Execute against Japan": The U.S. Decision to Conduct Unrestricted Submarine Warfare (Williams-Ford Texas AM University Military History Series)

Joel Ira Holwitt

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not Exactly an About FaceBy W. E. RichardsonThis is an approach to the subject from a technical/legal point of view. It reviews the background history and how it fits into the picture as it unfolded in WWII. I found it a fascinating look behind the headlines into how we got from a very strong anti-unrestricted warfare position to the full use of submarine unrestricted warfare against Japan, including the influence of Nazi Germany's use in the Atlantic.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding tale of our evolution towards WWII unrestricted air and submarine warfare!By gaijin88The author's outstanding work exposed me to facts I wasn't taught at the Naval Academy or during my career in the Navy. I hope that our current civilian and military leaders have the guts to make the tough decisions as their predecessors had to do.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Execute Against JapanBy Gerald W. CravensFor anyone puzzled how the United States came to a total reversal in attitude toward the legitimacy of Unrestricted Submarine Warfare, this will explain it as well as it likely will ever be explained. The author has researched the subject thoroughly and articulates well in unsophisticated language. He exposes the entanglements a nation can get itself into by idealistic politicians and leagalistic leaders. This is a refreshing work by a very skilled writer.Another worthy work on the same subject is Diplomatic Ramifications of Unrestricted Submarine Warfare, 1939-1941, by Janet M. Manson (ISBN 0-313-26894-0). It walks the reader well through the German experience in both wars, however, it lacks the depth of America's decision making process going into World War II. Holwitt's book, therefore makes a good compliment.

“ . . . until now how the Navy managed to instantaneously move from the overt legal restrictions of the naval arms treaties that bound submarines to the cruiser rules of the eighteenth century to a declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare against Japan immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor has never been explained. Lieutenant Holwitt has dissected this process and has created a compelling story of who did what, when, and to whom.”—The Submarine Review “Execute against Japan should be required reading for naval officers (especially in submarine wardrooms), as well as for anyone interested in history, policy, or international law.”—Adm. James P. Wisecup, President, US Naval War College (for Naval War College Review) “Although the policy of unrestricted air and submarine warfare proved critical to the Pacific war’s course, this splendid work is the first comprehensive account of its origins—illustrating that historians have by no means exhausted questions about this conflict.”—World War II Magazine “US Navy submarine officer Joel Ira Holwitt has performed an impressive feat with this book. . . . Holwitt is to be commended for not shying away from moral judgments . . . This is a superb book that fully explains how the United States came to adopt a strategy regarded by many as illegal and tantamount to ‘terror’.”—Military Review

". . . Holwitt, a U.S. Navy submariner, delivers an impressive account . . . although the policy of unrestricted air and submarine warfare proved critical to the Pacific war's course, this splendid work is the first comprehensive account of its origins--illustrating that historians have by no means exhausted questions about this conflict."--World War II Magazine