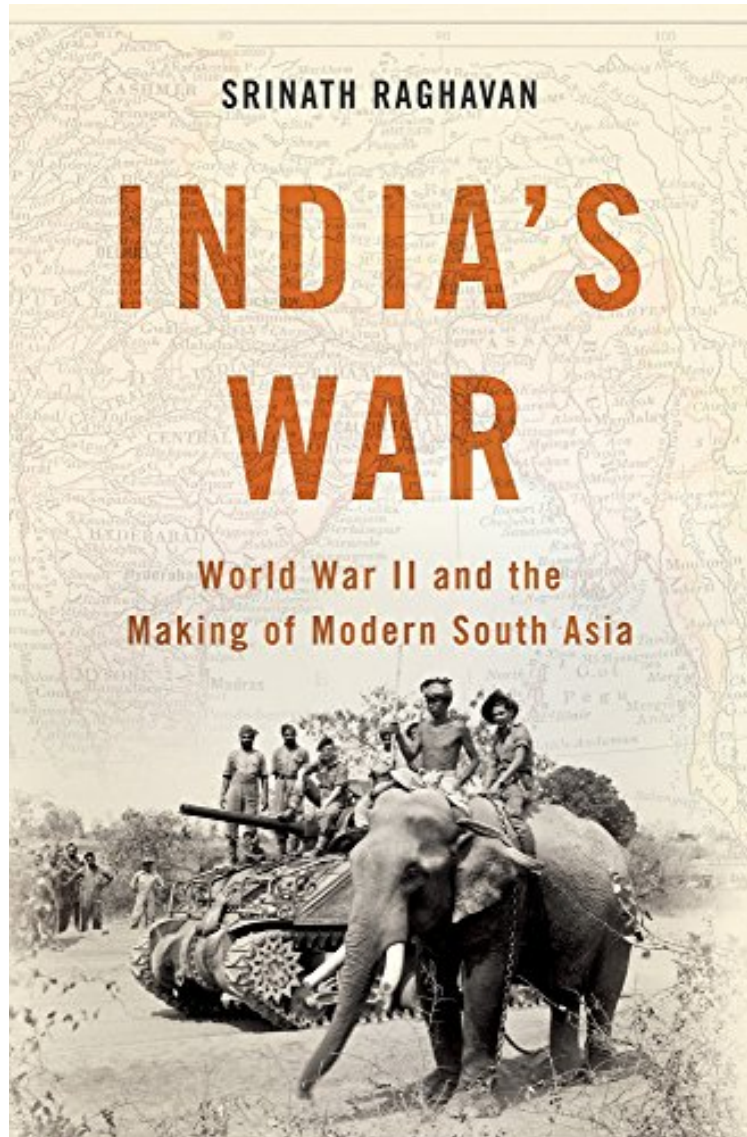


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Srinath Raghavan

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material and people. It also exposes the underlying political tensions in India where people clearly were aware of the hypocrisy of Britain's war effort - freedom for Europe but not so much for the colonial peoples. This led to for example, captured Indian soldiers in Singapore switching sides to the Japanese war effort. The loss of Burma and the war effort also caused substantial dislocations on the Indian subcontinent. Galloping inflation and a failed crop led to the Bengal famine and millions of deaths. Most histories conveniently skip the enormous price that India, China and other colonies paid in the fight between the imperial powers. 17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. There are very useful Maps and charts to help the reader with less ...By bpathakjeea very scholarly History of India's role in WWII and the short and long term ramifications . Brief review of INA under Subhash Bose without glorifying him as has been done in popular belief. The author highlights British mistakes and prejudices very well without being overly nationalistic about it. There are very useful Maps and charts to help the reader with less well known places in various War theatres . There are interesting trivia as to how the War jump started Famous industries such as Larsen and Toubro and Kirloskar Group. The difference between American and British approach is well defined. A very monumental work that will be a Great resource to casual readers and serious students of History alike. Worth reading over several days to avoid battle fatigue. I wish there were more details on the plight of the ordinary Indian who suffered due to famine and War time policy. 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Wanted to like it as I have studied WWII in depth but ...By bktypea Wanted to like it as I have studied WWII in depth but the pace of this book is very slow and not terribly interesting. First 1/3 has been about the political battles internally in India regarding their level of support. Wanted to hear much more about their campaigns, victories, losses, etc.

Between 1939 and 1945 India underwent extraordinary and irreversible change. Hundreds of thousands of Indians suddenly found themselves in uniform, fighting in the Middle East, North and East Africa, Europe and-something simply never imagined-against a Japanese army poised to invade eastern India. With the threat of the Axis powers looming, the entire country was pulled into the vortex of wartime mobilization. By the war's end, the Indian Army had become the largest volunteer force in the conflict, consisting of 2.5 million men, while many millions more had offered their industrial, agricultural, and military labor. It was clear that India would never be the same-the only question was: would the war effort push the country toward or away from independence? In *India's War*, historian Srinath Raghavan paints a compelling picture of battles abroad and of life on the home front, arguing that the war is crucial to explaining how and why colonial rule ended in South Asia. World War II forever altered the country's social landscape, overturning many Indians' settled assumptions and opening up new opportunities for the nation's most disadvantaged people. When the dust of war settled, India had emerged as a major Asian power with her feet set firmly on the path toward Independence. From Gandhi's early urging in support of Britain's war efforts, to the crucial Burma Campaign, where Indian forces broke the siege of Imphal and stemmed the western advance of Imperial Japan, Raghavan brings this underexplored theater of WWII to vivid life. The first major account of India during World War II, *India's War* chronicles how the war forever transformed India, its economy, its politics, and its people, laying the groundwork for the emergence of modern South Asia and the rise of India as a major power.

"[A]s Mr. Raghavan's fascinating account of the geopolitics of the war makes clear, there is more at stake in the history of India in World War II than 'rounding out' the story.... The history [Raghavan] writes is inspired by the search for a wider horizon for India as a regional superpower beyond the confining frame bequeathed by World War II and the ragged end of British Empire in Asia. It is all the more important and urgent for that." *Wall Street Journal* "Raghavan usefully supplies the facts, in charts, figures, maps and details of military operations.... He also gives thorough, fascinating and revealing accounts of the economic transformations." *Economist* "Raghavan's panoramic and richly detailed book deserves the accolades that it is receiving as the most comprehensive account of the subcontinent's experiences in the second world war. A historian at King's College London, Raghavan unearths much new detail and displays a masterful grasp of wartime diplomacy and economics." *Financial Times's* summer books "A panoramic work, spanning the deliberations of the highest Allied councils of war to the febrile mood on the streets of Kolkata, formerly Calcutta, in the shadow of the Japanese advance.... Raghavan's splendid history is a reminder not just of India's historic contribution to the defeat of fascism, but also its geopolitical potential throughout the Indo-Pacific." *Financial Times* "A highly readable account of one of the more complex--and ignored--phase of World War II." *Washington Times* "Raghavan has written what will probably become the standard account of India's involvement in World War II."