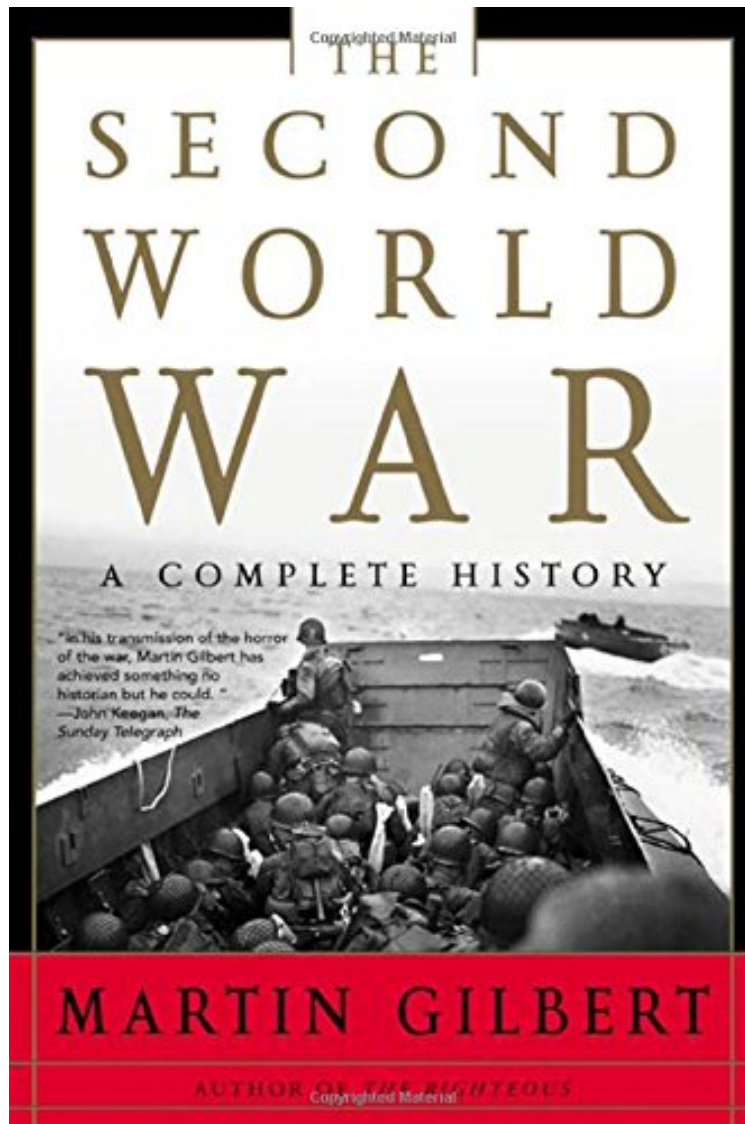


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# The Second World War: A Complete History

*Martin Gilbert*

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#261908 in Books Holt Paperbacks 2004-06-01 2004-06-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.31 x 1.75 x 6.291, 1.93 #File Name: 0805076239928 pages | File size: 59.Mb

**Martin Gilbert : The Second World War: A Complete History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Second World War: A Complete History:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Paragon of history books By EarlB For mostly any type of reader, this is an excellent work: curious readers will learn much, researchers will find it an invaluable resource, and anybody will gain a pertinent knowledge of this war - the greatest (in scale) of all wars in history. Unfortunately, and very surprisingly, there is no historical preface whatsoever: the book begins with the invasion of Poland, 1 September 1939, pronto. Thus, with no foundation, the reader might be quite irritated, especially if (s)he doesn't already have a fairly

good knowledge of the events leading to the Second World War. This will not, however, impede the ability to read the book: still, the first two chapters or so concentrate primarily on the Nazi atrocities within Poland during and in the months after its conquest. Past that point, however, the narrative removes itself from any particular perspective or base, and the reader is put in view of the war from all perspectives - Allied, Axis, and of the agony of occupied Europe, the Holocaust, which is not ignored by this history, and nor does its tragic story interfere with the flow of history itself. This book is rather lengthy, which may be the delight or dismay of a potential reader: if you prefer longer, more extensive, comprehensive work, you will not be disappointed. If you had in mind a short, brief history just to fill you in on the basic happenings of the war, you might want to look elsewhere. But either way this book is a paragon of excellence in the career of historians. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An good overview, not a reference book. By carrollk It is impossible to cover WWII in less than 800 pages. 100,000 pages seems like a more likely venue. Nevertheless, Mr. Gilbert has done it remarkably well. He arranged the topics by date and covered the whole world of events very briefly, skipping from a few well written, informative sentences on the Pacific war to more sentences in Europe or elsewhere to provide complete, but not detailed information or everything. If you want detailed information on a specific topic like Hamburg or Peleliu or the Bismarck or anything else you can buy whole volumes on the that topic. This book presents the 'tip of the iceberg' very well. It is not an uptight resource on any time or event. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good By Al Singh Except perhaps for Iris Chang's \*The Rape of Nanking\*, no other book I have read captures the horror and brutality of World War II like this one. Martin's trademark style is historical narrative intermingled with individual stories and anecdotes, and it is the individual accounts, replete with documented proper names and direct quotes, that convey the proper note of atrocity committed by the Axis Powers. There are daily accounts of Holocaust victims that should be enough to refute any Holocaust denier, and there are also recorded acts of selfless courage and heroism. No other book I have read on this subject expresses to this extent the madness perpetrated in the last century by two of the most powerful and advanced nations in the world. This is not a book for students of tactics and military strategy a la John Keegan, this is a memorial of human suffering in the most horrendous war ever fought. It is not exactly exciting, but it is appropriately appalling.

Gilbert charts week by week, month by month, the development and horror of a war in which more than 46 million people perished. In this history of a global war, the author weaves together all aspects - political, diplomatic, military and civilian. Heroes from all nations - soldiers, sailors and airmen, statesmen and resistance fighters are remembered and their stories put in the context of the wider struggle.

From Publishers Weekly This masterful account of history's most destructive conflict explains the purpose and interrelationship of the major campaigns of the war and their effect on soldiers and civilians alike. Though the military aspect is told with noteworthy clarity and narrative power, most impressive is Gilbert's presentation of World War II as primarily a matter of organized evil and mass madness, a deadly virus originating in Berlin and Tokyo that infected victims on a global scale. That it was "the last good war" is a saying made dramatically comprehensible in the sections describing the opposition to the Axis. The scope of the book is astonishingly broad, ranging smoothly from Himmler's "human stud-farms" (dedicated to producing pure Aryans) to the importance of the Burma campaign, from a comparison of Nazi treatment of Jews and Japanese treatment of Filipinos to the SS doctrine that mercy was officially considered a crime. Gilbert is the author of the acclaimed eight-volume official Winston Churchill biography. Photos. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Though few one-volume histories of World War II have been published in the last ten years, the 50th anniversary of the war's start has inspired new works: Gilbert's book and John Keegan's *The Second World War* (reviewed in this issue, p. 102) are two of them. Gilbert's is less a battle history than Keegan's. For Gilbert (biographer of Churchill and Holocaust historian, author of the massive *The Holocaust*, LJ 2/1/86) the movements of armies and the decisions of statesmen were ultimately the consequences of Nazi and Japanese racial policies. Thus the struggles and fates of Axis victims are essential to the complete history of war, which inflicted such unprecedented suffering on innocent parties. Gilbert uses this perspective to present the war from an original angle. Accounts of campaigns and conferences are directly juxtaposed to descriptions of atrocities and resistance. Gilbert draws his human interest not from battlefields and home fronts, as do most histories of the war, but from concentration camps and ghettos. In so doing he reminds us that World War II was a "good war," because it was fought against tyrannies that perpetuated obscenities as a matter of principle. Recommended for all collections.- Dennis E. Showalter, Colorado Coll., Colorado Springs Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Surprisingly effective in reminding us that World War II was more than a series of battles and feats of arms."