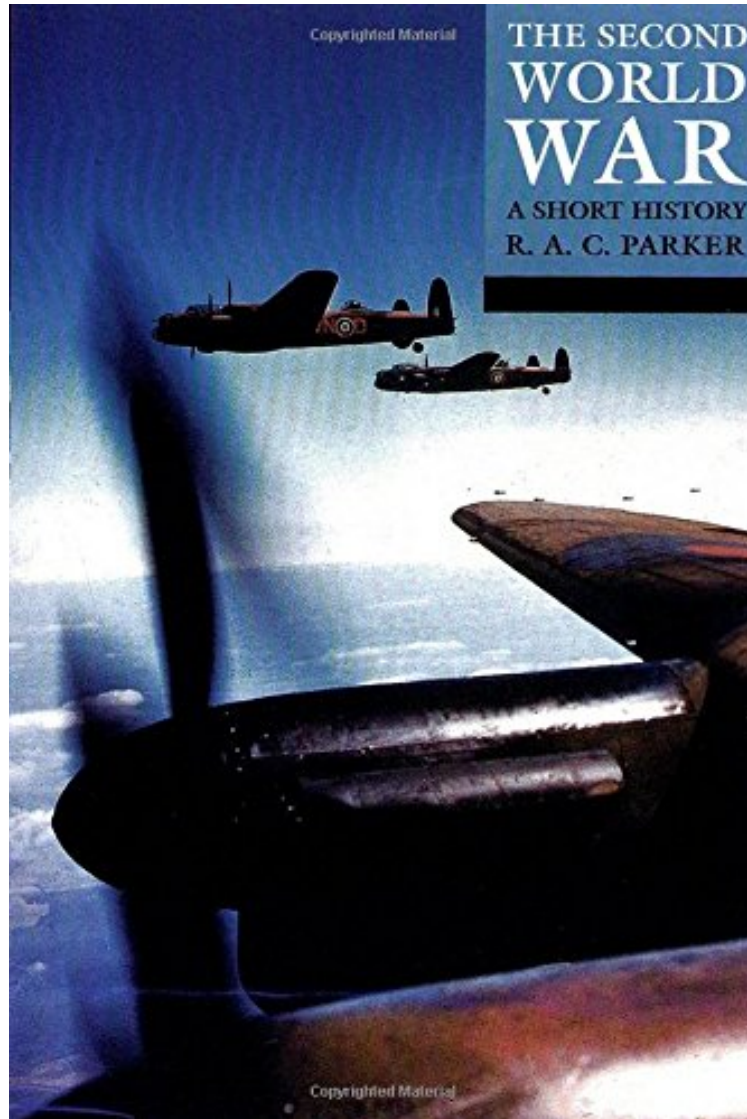


[FREE] The Second World War: A Short History (Struggle for Survival)

The Second World War: A Short History (Struggle for Survival)

R. A. C. Parker

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R. A. C. Parker : The Second World War: A Short History (Struggle for Survival) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Second World War: A Short History (Struggle for Survival):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Chris and SherryPurchased this for a graduate course and learned a great amount of information about WWII.31 of 31 people found the following review helpful. Wonderfully Concise Yet Comprehensive History Of WWII!By Barron LaycockFor serious students of the WWII era wishing to have a handy, concise, and yet quite comprehensive overview of the Second World War and its times by

way of a one-volume effort, this is the book to start with. Unlike much more massive, detailed, and descriptive tomes such as Gerhard Weinberg's "A World At War", Sir Martin Gilbert's "The Second World War", or the new "A War To Be Won" by Murray and Millett, this book pares down the tremendous sweep and circumstances surrounding the war to a relatively brief (just over three hundred pages) and yet amazingly concise and comprehensive narrative. Indeed, Professors from Harvard to Stanford often assign this book for introductory courses on World War Two because it is both manageable and accurate. Parker's narrative is informed by his matchless grasp of the relevant documents and official records as well as a unique feel for the way in which the various aspects of the conflict interweave and interact to create and sustain a worldwide conflagration. In his stirring and entertaining treatment, one finds a treasure trove of details, and at the same time also gains a better understanding of the way in which the economic, diplomatic, and military factors combine during the drift toward war in the late 1930s. In this sense the book is written with great verve and obvious historical impact. Viewed in this way, the book can be considered a quite compact and yet still comprehensive overview of the war itself, how it began, its slow and horrific progress, and how it was both won by the Allies and lost by the Axis powers. Indeed, one comes away from the reading experience with a much improved and enhanced appreciation for the far-reaching impact the war had on humanity at large, since the war affected everyone, combatants, noncombatants, and onlookers alike. As Parker argues quite persuasively, the Second World War changed the course of the 20th century forever. The author faithfully traces how the key events of the war progress, showing how the strategies of each of the participants as well as their indigenous populations and economies affect the course of the conflict. In looking at major battles and campaigns, Parker provides a wealth of insight that is disproportionately detailed compared to the length of the book, and provides the reader with a wonderfully informative, insightful, and entertaining reading experience. He discusses specific aspects of the war such as mobile warfare, the Holocaust, forced migration, and the use of the atomic bomb in a way that helps the reader to understand the importance of each and gives specific reasons as to how and why they occurred. This is a book that is easy to recommend to anyone wanting a relatively concise and yet immensely rewarding reading experience. Enjoy!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Arrived as promised... Will purchase from this ...By Lynn D Walker Arrived as promised... Will purchase from this buyer again!!!

From the rise of the Nazi party, through the bombing of Pearl Harbor, to the ultimate defeat of the Axis nations and the first chills of the Cold War, *The Second World War: A Short History* offers a completely comprehensive overview of the Second World War in one readable, compact volume. Alastair Parker deftly explores the causes of the war and why it lasted so long, how it was won and lost, and its consequences for humanity. The author traces the key events in both the European and Far Eastern theaters, outlining the strategies of the participants and the strengths and weaknesses of their fighting forces. Parker conveys a vivid picture of the features that distinguished the Second World War from any war that preceded it, including mobile warfare, widespread forced migration, the Holocaust, and strategic and nuclear bombing. Unlike many other histories of the war, this short history places the British and European involvement squarely in an international perspective, never shying away from raising difficult and fundamental questions about this monumental conflict. *The Second World War* presents an unprecedented short history, offering a sweeping survey of events that omits none of the drama that filled the years between 1939 and 1945. With intriguing photographs and a number of helpful maps, it is a fascinating and objective look at the central struggle of our times.

from previous edition: "Based on a matchless knowledge of the documents, he provides an authoritative treatment of military, diplomatic, and economic aspects, written with great force and insight. As a one-volume survey, it is unlikely to be surpassed...[A] magnificent achievement, a tour de force."--Kenneth O. Morgan, *New Statesman and Society*"[A] miracle of compression compared with the rest of the horde of general histories."--*Guardian*"Parker alights unerringly on the salient campaigns and issues, and considers them with consistent style and insight."--*Times Educational Supplement*"The most balanced view of the causes and courses of the Second World War."--Field Marshal Lord Carver, *Times Literary Supplement*"[W]ritten in clear and elegant English...[A] masterful account of the Second World War in all its different spheres. It is scrupulously fair, illuminated by an engaging sense of humour...and gives an entirely balanced view of the varying contributions of the different powers engaged."--Richard Cobb, *The Spectator*"The Second World War...[is] at once succinct and thorough, sharp and nuanced....[It] puts the conflict in the widest context surveying its political, diplomatic, demographic, and economic ramifications....In addition to its other virtues, this trenchant, elegant survey contains the most lucid summation...of the Nazis' murder of the European Jews."--*The Atlantic Monthly*

About the Author R. A. C. Parker is a Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford.