

## AIR WAR IN THE PACIFIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bergerund, Eric M. Fire in the Sky: The Air War In The South Pacific. Westview Press, 2000. A very comprehensive treatment of the Pacific Air War. The author blends in tactics and personal recollections of the men who fought the book.

Dorr, Robert F. Mission to Tokyo: The American Airmen Who Took the War to the Heart of Japan. Zenith Press, 2012. This book covers one of the early low level bombing missions against Tokyo. It is a riveting account of that mission and its cost to the fliers.

Feifer, George *The Battle of Okinawa: The Blood and The Bomb*. The Lyons Press (2001). This book is hard to read; not because of the writing, which is excellent, but because of the detail of combat that the author uses. This is the strength of the book; but it makes it a hard read. A must read for anyone who is interested in the motivation for the use of the atomic weapons to end the war against Japan.

Gandt, Robert The Twilight Warriors: The Deadliest Naval Battle of World War II and the Men who Fought It. Broadway Books, New York. 2010. The story of the epic battle of Okinawa from the Navy perspective. Recommended as a good lead in to the Giangreco book and the possible invasion of Japan.

Giangreco, D.M. Hell to Pay: Operation Downfall and the Invasion of Japan 1945-1947. Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, MD, 2009. A very thorough examination of the possible consequences of the invasion of Japan. It is good to have a good map of Japan available when you read it.

Gillon, Steven M. Pearl Harbor: FDR Leads the Nation Into War. Basic Books, New York, 2011. Another account of the events of 1941 that led to WWII. The title is somewhat misleading as you think that this is an account of how FDR knew of the attack in advance – it is not.

Heinrichs, Waldo. Threshold of War: Franklin D. Roosevelt and American Entry into World War II. Oxford University Press, New York, 1988. One more book dealing with the events leading to World War II. Again, this book details the diplomatic moves that were part of the American foreign policy in the time immediately preceding WWII.

Hotta, Eri. Japan 1941, Countdown to Infamy. Alfred A, Knopf, New York, 2013. A fascinating account of the decisions made by the Japanese Government that led to the attack on Pearl Harbor. She uses some of the latest scholarship on this period in Japanese History.

Kershaw, Ian. Fateful Choices; Ten Decisions that Changed the World 1940-1941. Penguin Books, 2007. Kershaw covers decisions made in Washington, London, Berlin, Rome and Tokyo that led to important actions in WWII. For this class the sections on the actions taken in Tokyo and Washington that led to the attack on Pearl Harbor are of the greatest interest; however, the rest of the book is equally fascinating.

Overy, Richard; Why the Allies Won; WW Norton, New York and London, 1995. A very well-written book by an excellent and knowledgeable author. He takes issue with some traditional ways of looking at the Allied victory in WWII. He has an excellent section on the effects of the strategic bombing campaign both for the European Theater as well as the Pacific.

Morrison, Samuel Eliot. History of United States Naval Operations in World War II (15 vols.) Book Sales, 2001. This set was actually completed in the 1960's and this is a reprint of the original set. Morrison was one of the pre-eminent US Naval historians and this set is just about as well-written as any you will find. It is a bit dated; however it still a classic in the field.

Parshall, Jonathan B. and Tull, Anthony P. Shattered Sword: The Untold Story of the Battle of Midway. Potomac Books, Washington, D.C. 2005. This is a different view of the Battle of Midway. The authors are heavily involved in a website that is dedicated to the Japanese Navy in WWII. They feel that the Japanese should be considered the underdogs at Midway. I don't agree with their thesis because I think that they place too much emphasis on the planes located on Midway. Despite that I think that it is worth a read.

Prange, Gordon W., with Donald M. Goldstein and Katherine V. Dillon. At Dawn We Slept, Penguin Books, New York, 1991. This is an updated version of Prange's classic book on Pearl Harbor. It is still the best and most thorough account of this event.\*

Prange, Gordon W., with Donald M. Goldstein and Katherine V. Dillon. Miracle at Midway, MJF Books, New York, 1982. Prange strikes again with another well-written and well documented book on a very famous battle.

Prange, Gordon W., with Donald M. Goldstein and Katherine V. Dillon. Pearl Harbor: The Verdict of History, McGraw-Hill Books, New York, 1986. If you are a conspiracy theorist this book will make you very unhappy. Prange and his associates examine almost all of the conspiracy theories about Pearl Harbor and demolish them all. Well written, but long – 567 pages.

Sears, David. Pacific Air: How Fearless Flyboys, Peerless Aircraft, and Fast Flattops Conquered the Skies in the War With Japan. DaCapo Press, 2011. This tells the story from the twin perspectives of the engineers who designed the weapons and the men who fought in them. This is a unique treatment and is worth a read.

Stille, Mark. Santa Cruz 1942: Carrier Duel in the South Pacific. Osprey Publishing, 2012. This book is about a carrier battle after Midway that further degraded the Japanese carrier air arm.

Symonds, Craig L. The Battle of Midway. Oxford University Press, New York. 2011. A more up to date account of this battle than that of Gordon Prange. However, it does not add that much to what is known about the battle.

Thomas, Evan Sea of Thunder: Four Commanders and the Last Great Naval Campaign. Simon & Schuster, New York, 2006. He chronicles the development of the plans by the Japanese for the Battle of Leyte Gulf and provides insights into the commanders involved in that action.

Tillman, Barrett. Whirlwind: The Air War Against Japan 1942-1945, Simon and Schuster, New York, 2010. A very thorough and well written account if the American bombing campaign against Japan.

Tillman, Barrett. Clash of Carriers, The True Story of the Marianas Turkey Shoot of World War II. NAL Books (a division of Penguin Books), New York. 2005. This book has a wealth of personal vignettes about this battle and does a great job of putting Admiral Spruance's difficult choices in perspective.

Toll, Ian W. Pacific Crucible: War at Sea in the Pacific 1941-1942. W.W. Norton & Company, New York, 2012. Excellent coverage of the first two years of the War in the Pacific. There is no coverage of the land war and the book ends with the end of 1942.

NB . This is NOT an exhaustive list of the books on this subject. A quick look at the bibliography at the back of any of these books will tell you that. However, it will give you a good start. Only one of these books, other than Morrison's 15 volume set, is not available for a Kindle. I have a Kindle and I know this is true for it; but I don't know if the same is true for the other formats.