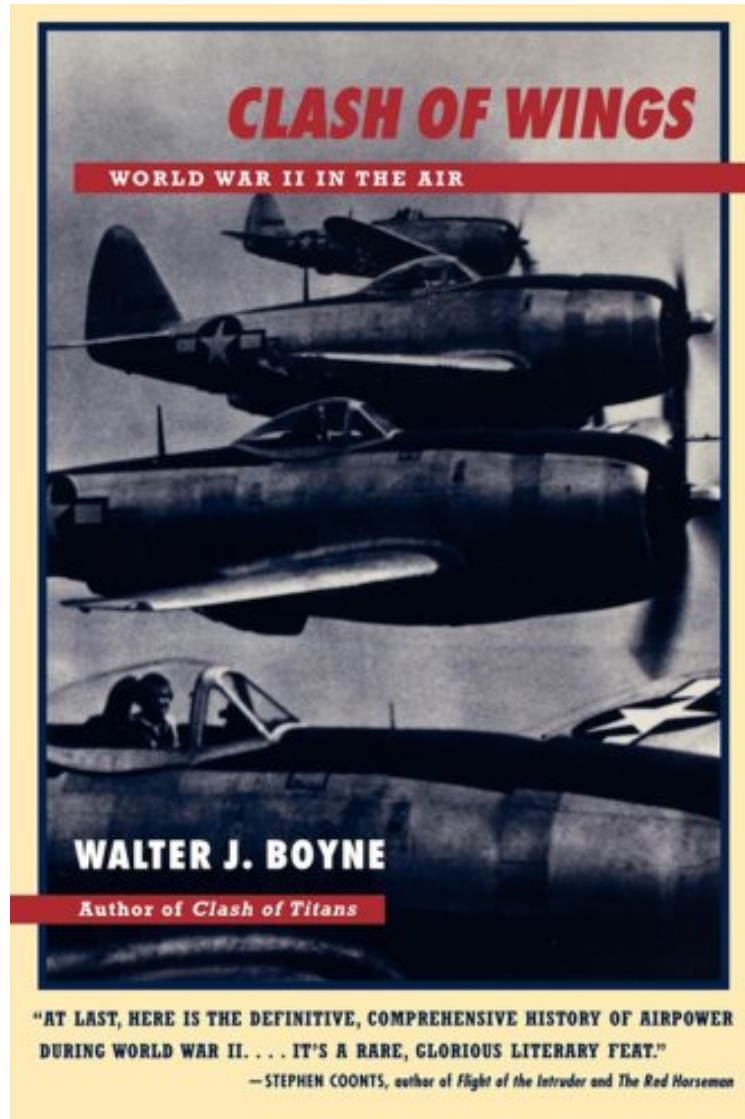


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Clash of Wings: World War II in the Air (English Edition)

Von Walter J. Boyne

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Von Walter J. Boyne : Clash of Wings: World War II in the Air (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Clash of Wings: World War II in the Air (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Weaves The Air War Into The Overall WarVon James GallenIn "Clash Of Wings", the renowned air power expert, Col. Walter Boyne, brings World War II air power to life. Covering all theatres and major combatants, the reader is treated to a thorough introduction to the strategy, personalities and equipment involved.Col. Boyne has again written in a very

engaging and easily understood manner. Much of this writing consists of description of aircraft, including their strengths and weaknesses. My knowledge of aircraft has generally been limited to the models I had assembled in my youth, several of which I enjoyed reading about. I have never studied aircraft in sufficient depth to really follow their ins and outs, but Col. Boyne writes in such a way that I never became bored. I appreciate the way he weaves the story of the air war into the bigger story of the overall war. I finished this book with a feeling that I had a better understanding, not only of the air war, but of the ground and naval wars also. I was pleased to find some of my lingering questions about World War II, such as why Japan attacked the U. S. and European colonies to the south rather than trying to finish off the Soviet Union first, and what would have happened if they had attacked the U.S.S.R., addressed in this narrative. This book is great! I really cannot say much more. Read it and understand what I mean.

0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Readable, occasionally insightful, but also questionable. Von Ein Kunde

Col. Boyne's book is certainly written in a readable style, but it is yet another strategic history of air warfare, a genre overpopulated with the strategic and tactical at the expense of the operational. Thankfully, Col. Boyne takes more of a look at the operational level of war than most air authors, but it's still a glimpse limited mostly to correlation of forces tables. However, some of Boyne's strategic insights are refreshing, particularly his revelations about how the cycle of aircraft and technology development impacted the different air forces, and the size and strategic mobility of the Luftwaffe and the Japanese Naval Air Force. Unfortunately, in the end, Col. Boyne is lead astray by his own background, wandering off course in the Pacific due to a poor understanding of naval air power. Naval Aviation's pioneers and their struggle to establish the arm that won the great battles of the Pacific war receive short shrift, as does the whole campaign. Boyne focusses excessively on the role of land based aviation, particularly the 5th Air Force and the B-29 bomber campaign. The former's Bismarck Sea massacre of a Japanese convoy is a highly overrated event, and the later was largely a matter of beating a dead horse. The Japanese recognized their military defeat at the Battle of the Philippine Sea, in June 1944 before a single B-29 launched from the Marianas. The only reason the war continued past that point was cultural pride and stubbornness. Clash of Wings is a good starting point, but I recommend the following books to people who really want to understand the Pacific war: Miller's "The Naval Air War," Hezlet's "Aircraft and Sea Power," Reynold's "The Fast Carriers," and Allen and Polmar's "Code-name Downfall." The B-29 campaign was rescued from a historical verdict of ineffectiveness, pointlessness and inhumanity only by the staggering shock of the atomic bomb, something Boyne appropriately calls "true air power." In the end, only nuclear, biological and chemical weapons are capable of achieving Giulio Douhet's vision of air power.

0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Readable, occasionally insightful, but also questionable. Von Ein Kunde

Col. Boyne has produced a very readable history of the air war in WW2, but his USAF roots betray him in the end. Chief among Boyne's strong points is his recognition of the impact of the aircraft technological development cycle on the combatants. It goes a long way toward illuminating why the Luftwaffe and Japanese Naval Air Force peaked early, only to stagnate later. Boyne also delves into certain strategic and operational level facts not often addressed. His revelations about the small size, but significant strategic mobility of the Luftwaffe and JNAF are quite interesting, as well as his correlation of forces tables. But alas, Boyne is of USAF origin and wanders into questionable assertions about the largely naval Pacific campaign. He trots out the tired, tragic and questionable feat of Colin Kelly (saying the target was really the cruiser Ashigara, not a battleship), glosses over the abject failure of land-based air at Midway, and positively glories in the small, and largely over-rated massacre in the Bismarck Sea. The role of the pioneers of Naval Aviation (such as John Towers) is largely ignored. Boyne is also a little light on his criticism of a number of USAF and RAF figures involved with the strategic bombing campaigns. Overall, Col. Boyne has written a readable, concise and insightful history of the air war, but it is decidedly skewed and anyone truly interested in the air campaigns of WW2 must read beyond him.

Kurzbeschreibung Boyne resurrects the war of the skies in all its heroic and tragic drama, while supplying insightful, expert conclusions about previously overlooked aspects of the war, including the essential role of American bombers in Europe; Germany's miscalculation of the number of planes required for victory; the Allies' slow start in deploying maximum air power and why they eventually triumphed.

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ber den Autor und weitere Mitwirkende WALTER J. BOYNE is the former director of the National Air Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. Boyne's books have made both the fiction and the nonfiction bestseller lists of "The New York Times". His novels "Roaring Thunder" and "Supersonic Thunder" cover the first forty-four years of jet aviation. His critically acclaimed nonfiction book, "Dawn Over Kitty Hawk", recounts the story of the Wright Brothers. A retired Air Force Colonel, Boyne was enshrined in the National Aviation Hall of Fame class of 2007.