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World War II in Europe: An Encyclopedia (Military History of the United States)

Von Routledge

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Von Routledge : World War II in Europe: An Encyclopedia (Military History of the United States) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised World War II in Europe: An Encyclopedia (Military History of the United States):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Argument-Settler for World War II Buffs (and scholars)Von James J. BloomThe massive two-volume work will most likely be found only in University and large metropolitan libraries. An occasional military history nut like myself will shell out the better part of \$200 for this comprehensive and well-organized reference work.Does it replace single

volume, cheaper and handier encyclopedia? I have not seen any notable gaps in coverage when randomly searching for some relatively obscure events, items or person be they Rumanian military commanders, Baltic seacoast skirmishes or Polish tankettes. However, as the title notes, this work is devoted to the European Theater(which includes much of the African and Middle Eastern theaters as well). As such, it is exhaustive.It is organized into sections dealing with "Social and Political Events", "Leaders", "Units and Organizations", "Weapons", "Strategy, Tactics and Operational concepts (including doctrine)", and finally "Battles and Campaigns". Each article is written by someone who obviously knows his or her material. Suggested reading lists immediately follow each entry, which vary from a paragraph or two to several pages. This aspect is uneven. Some lists suggest outdated and curious wartime items, others include dubious popular accounts or works that mention the subject only incidentally. However, enough substantial and authoritative works are included to provide adequate additional depth for the most part. The general bibliography at the end supplements the mini-list nicely.Appendices handle code names, a chronological table, acronyms, comparative ranks and a general selected bibliography covering each topical subdivision.There are two indices: military units/warships, and general subjects. The latter is comprehensive and will pinpoint your research requirements.Some may not care for the topical subdivisions;the format doesn't make the book easy to casually leaf through in order to get information on a subject on impulse. The index however, is useful in finding the main entry for the subject you are researching (in bold) as well as places where to find more incidental references to the topic.The section on Units and Organizations, for example, does not go into operational histories but only the "organizational profiles". So if you are interested in both the structure/character AND the war record of a certain division or elite formation, you'd have to check out relevant sections in Battles and Campaigns as well as the "Unit" pages. Also, it's not always easy to separate the political from the military-operational aspects of certain events. However, the index compensates for the unavoidable fragmentation of these discussions, which is really not a drawback for the most part.The section on Weapons and Equipment is not simply an annotated tabular reference such as you find in many of the glossy coffee table "Planes of the Luftwaffe" picture books. The discussions give an excellent feel for the pre-war development of the plane, tank or ship under discussion as well as it's impact on operations and relative performance in the various theaters and campaigns.I like the idea of the special section on Strategy, Tactics and Doctrine. These subjects are not analyzed abstractly, but are related to particular campaigns. Further,their wartime evolution is clearly denoted.Thirty-seven strategical/operational maps in the beginning of the Battles and Campaigns segment are detailed enough to follow most of the following discussions.This work, along with the forthcoming Pacific volumes, belongs on any two-foot shelf of essential World War II reading.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Superb WWII ResourceVon Ein KundeThis encyclopedia will be well-received by all serious military historians.

KurzbeschreibungFirst Published in 1999. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis, an informa company.Pressestimmen"A valuable reference work providing new research on a subject that still continues to fascinate both academics and enthusiasts.....A valuable complement and guide to the enormous literature on the subject."-Canadian Journal of History, August 2000 "Designed to meet the reference needs of any level of user...This work is recommended for serious students of politico-military affairs in the 20th century and reference department emphasizing modern history."-Choice "World War II in Europe is an invaluable study of the Western half of the war and a worthy addition to reference collections in large public and academic libraries."-Reference Books Bulletin/Booklist "A very, very strong effort, and certainly strong enough to look like a leading candidate for the annual "Top Ten" awards."-Stone and Stone Second World War Books "Recommended.....An excellent in-depth reference."-er's Bookwatch KurzbeschreibungFirst Published in 1999. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis, an informa company.