

Rising Sun Victorious: The Alternate History of How the Japanese won the Pacific War

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This look at WW2 in the Pacific by mil. historians examines the possibilities of the ways not taken: the opportunities for decisive advantages that could have been won by the arms of Imperial Japan. What would have happened if, for example, Japan had followed up its plan to attack the Soviet Union rather than the U.S.? Or if Nagumo had sent in his 3rd wave at Pearl Harbor: What if Japan had conquered India & knocked Britain out of the Pacific War, or if Japanese landings in Australia had severed the strategic link between the U.S. & its SW Pacific base? The authors, writing as if these & other world-changing events had actually happened, project realistic scenarios based on the true capabilities & circumstances of the forces involved. Illustrations.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
In his fourth alternate history, Tsouras (Disaster at D-Day, etc.), a senior analyst of the U.S. Army National Ground Intelligence Center, brings together a number of experts in the Pacific war to show how, with only some minor adjustments to actual events, the Japanese could have either won the war in the Pacific or else so stymied the Allies that Japan would have been able to keep some of its early conquests. The 10 chapters by 10 authors cover the gamut from an early conflict between Japan and the Soviet Union to the invasion of Japan. When American planes low on fuel had a choice while searching for the Japanese carriers at Midway, what if their commander had decided to fly to Midway to refuel rather than continue toward the last reported position of the enemy? (All three American carriers might have been sunk and the Japanese would have gone on to neutralize Hawaii and move in on the U.S. West Coast from there.) Other scenarios include a Japanese invasion of Australia (which is eventually defeated), a thrust into British India, an American evacuation of Guadalcanal, a disaster at Leyte Gulf and heavy losses during the invasion of Japan. Complementing 24 illustrations (not seen by PW) and 15 maps scattered throughout, brief summaries at the end of each chapter inform readers of what actually happened most will be relieved. (June)Forecast: In addition to this Military History Book Club Main Selection, which should reach its niche nicely, British publisher Greenhill has undertaken a series of books called G.I.: The Illustrated History of the American Soldier, His Uniform and His Equipment. The series has the largest set of WWII-era photos of U.S. soldiers ever published, now encompassing 24 books and more than 2,500 images, some in color.

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Review
Overall, an excellent book with thought provoking ideas/propositions that form the basis of the alternative history timelines. An excellent start with a soviet/japanese conflict, though i thought the war plan orange was a bit lacking.The last chapter - a debrief/lecture with Admiral Fletcher is really a superb construct, catching the politics, tactics and strategy of the final closing months of the Pacific War. --By Richard

Everyone with an interest in the Pacific War will find something stimulating in this thought-provoking study of what might have been. British Army Review In war, victory can be held hostage to seemingly insignificant incidents chance events, opportunities seized or cast aside that can derail the most brilliant military strategies and change the course of history. What if the Japanese had conquered India and driven out the British? What if the strategic link between the United States and Australia had been severed? What if Vice Admiral Nagumo had launched a third attack on Pearl Harbor? What if the U.S. Navy s gamble at Midway had backfired? Ten leading military historians ask these and other questions in this fascinating book. The war with Japan was rife with difficult choices and battles that could have gone either way. These fact-based alternate scenarios offer intriguing insights into what might have happened in the Pacific during World War II, and what the consequences would have been for America. A compelling read . . . bound to generate a good deal of debate. The Defense Information Bulletin Rising Sun Victorious is must reading. Almanac of Seapower --Various

From the Publisher
A dynamic alternate history of the Pacific War by a leading team of military historians. Learn how the Japanese could realistically have achieved victory.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Paul Eastman:

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Cara Shaver:

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