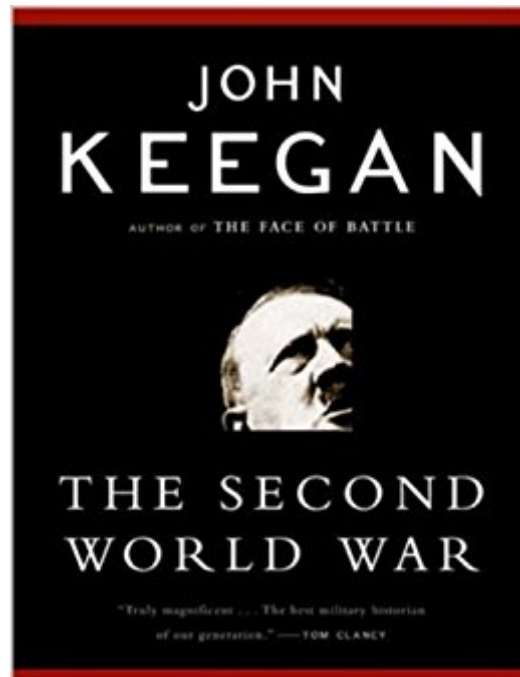




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# The Second World War



## Synopsis

Praised as "the best military historian of our generation" by Tom Clancy, John Keegan reconsiders his masterful study of World War II, *The Second World War*, with a new foreword. Keegan examines each theater of the war, focusing on five crucial battles and offering new insights into the distinctive methods and motivations of modern warfare. In eloquent, perceptive analyses of the airborne battle of Crete, the carrier battle of Midway, the tank battle of Falaise, the city battle of Berlin, and the amphibious battle of Okinawa, Keegan illuminates the strategic dilemmas faced by the leaders and the consequences of their decisions on the fighting men and the course of the war as a whole. An extraordinary, definitive history, *The Second World War* will be required reading for generations to come. "The Second World War" merits the acceptance as the standard work that it will surely receive." -The Washington Post "If you want to know how it happened, read Keegan's thoughtful and elegant prose." -Los Angeles Times

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Truly magnificent . . . The best military historian of our generation." -Tom Clancy "The Second World War" merits the acceptance as the standard work that it will surely receive . . . Features the eloquences we have come to expect of John Keegan." -The Washington Post "Analytical, concise, and coherent . . . If you want to know how it happened, read Keegan's thoughtful and elegant prose." -Los Angeles Times "To write history is to choose, and Mr. Keegan's choices and preferences are as interesting and stimulating as any I have seen . . . Boldy written and fair minded." -New York Times Book Review

John Keegan, one of the most distinguished contemporary military historians, was for many years Senior Lecturer at Sandhurst, the British Royal Military Academy, and Defense Editor of the London Daily Telegraph. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, Keegan is the author of numerous books including *The Face of Battle*, *The Mask of Command*, *The Price of Admiralty*, *Six Armies in Normandy*, and *The Second World War* (all available from Penguin). if (SYM == "BIO") { document.writeln(""); } else { document.writeln(""); }

A great book for a broad overview of the events of World War II. For a beginning scholar or someone interested in the war, this book comes recommended.

The scope of this work is astounding. In particular Keegan's coverage of the Russian front. One can almost envision 3,000,000 German soldiers stepping off the line in June 1941 to invade the Soviet Union. The brilliance of their initial attack combined with the arrogance and inhuman brutality which ultimately doomed it is set forth in astounding detail. There are some omissions. Iwo Jima is not covered at all. The massacres of Jews Poles and Slavs are not fleshed out but the strategic and geopolitical analysis is dead on. The book was published before the ultimate epilogue to the war, the collapse of the Soviet Union, had taken place but the major personalities are all there as well as descriptions of the courage and suffering of the common soldier. To restate the old cliché if you can only read one book about WWII this should be it.

INTELLIGENT, COMPREHENSIVE, AUTHORITATIVE.

Excellent history with diagrams throughout well chosen to illustrate text

Excellent resource for researching this time period. My professor in my junior year recommended it. The reading is not dry like a text book either.

As a general overview of World War II contained within a single volume, I would heartily recommend John Keegan's *The Second World War*. Keegan has a terrific narrative style that is a pleasure to read. Criticism that the book is Eurocentric seem completely unfair when you look at the entire scope of the book. I would recommend *The Second World War* as a starting point for any casual reading on the subject and it can then serve as a jumping off point for books that deal with parts of

WWII more specifically. I'm glad I bought and read this book.

Keegan's survey of WWII takes the reader from an excellent political, economic and military background to the conflict to a comprehensive overview of the war. Warning: it is not an easy read. Keegan's run-on sentences and confusing misplacement or sudden appearances of pronouns that force the reader to go back to the previous sentences can slow down the narrative. Nonetheless, once over the book's idiosyncracies the reader is rewarded with an insightful perspective on the war. Probably not read for relaxation but rather for a good history lesson, the book is well worthwhile.

This is my favorite one volume history of world war 2, for many reasons. Primarily, it focuses on the strategic and tactical elements of the war. It presents scenarios among leadership behind the curtain, while still covering the basic political climate of the unfolding events. Keegan takes you inside the minds of Patton, Himmler, Halder, Yamamoto, Tojo, etc, lucidating the undercurrents of the mechanisms of how the war was waged. Breakdowns of campaigns, battles, divisions, battalions and even dialogues between soldiers and generals give you an up front understanding of HOW and WHY the war was fought and thought. With this said, this is not a book for one who doesn't already know most of the political and military generalities of the war. This is a history of the war beyond the "history channel Time life" portrayal, with an insight that forces the reader to ask questions that weren't posed a priori. After the fact, it will encourage the reader to take a more humbled appreciation of the delicate fabric of events in the great upheaval.

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