

Akira Iriye, ed. *Pearl Harbor and the Coming of the Pacific War: A Brief History with Documents and Essays*. Pp. vii, 258. Boston & New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1999. Cloth, \$39.95; ISBN 0-312-21818-4.

Most of the volumes in the Bedford Series in History and Culture are fine supplemental reading assignments. *Pearl Harbor and the Coming of the Pacific War* is no exception. Edited by Akira Iriye, perhaps the leading scholar in the field of U.S.-East Asian relations, this book affords undergraduates the opportunity to begin investigating for themselves the outbreak of the Pacific War.

Part One contains a superb introductory essay followed by a section of documents. In the essay, Iriye summarizes the complicated events leading up to the attack on Pearl Harbor. He stresses that to understand the crisis between the United States and Japan, the reader must bear in mind that it developed within a broader international context. War raged in Europe, and Japan and China had been fighting for years. Not only the United States, China, and Japan, but also many other nations were key players in East Asia. Iriye emphasizes that students must understand how two wars, the one in Europe and the one in the Pacific, merged to become a single world conflict.

The primary sources are drawn from the negotiations between the United States and Japan that were held in November 1941, and they help illuminate the immediate background to the outbreak of the Pacific War. They include transcripts from Japanese imperial conferences, diplomatic correspondence, drafts of possible compromises, and the declaration of war that Japan never actually transmitted to the U.S. government. Throughout, Iriye invites readers to "do history," to analyze the documents and draw conclusions on important questions such as why Washington and Tokyo failed to reach a compromise.

Part Two features works authored by prominent scholars in which they probe outstanding questions in the history of the coming of the Pacific War. In a brief overview, Iriye deftly surveys China, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, the British Commonwealth, the Dutch East Indies, the Philippines, French Indochina, and Germany. The essays, which happily include the perspectives of colonial people, explore issues such as "The Petroleum Question" (authored by Minoru Nomura), "Pearl Harbor as an Intelligence Failure" (David Kahn), and "The Chinese-Japanese War" (Katsumi Usui). The conclusions drawn by different historians sometimes clash with each other. Iriye urges readers to critique the pieces in light of the documents already read, and to consider how the questions that historians ask suggest different interpretations of the same archival material.

In all, this is a very solid, useful work for undergraduate courses in U.S. diplomatic history, international history, and the Second World War. The book also contains helpful maps, a chronology of the events leading up to the Pacific War, and a bibliography.

One caveat: series editors Natalie Zemon Davis and Ernest R. May declare in the Foreword that the books in this series are "short enough ... to be a reasonable one-week assignment in a college course." That might be true for undergraduates at the elite schools at which Davis and May teach, but for most of us toiling in the groves of academe, this volume likely will require a longer assignment period.

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Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett. *A War to Be Won: Fighting the Second World War*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2000. Pp. xiii, 656. Cloth, \$35.00; ISBN 0-674-00163-X.

Given the tremendous passion and interest it engenders, the Second World War ranks as perhaps the most written about topic of the past fifty years. Especially popular in World War Two scholarship are the ubiquitous and comprehensive one-volume histories of the war that usually begin with the German invasion of Poland, end with the surrender of Japan, and cover everything in between. While some of these tomes are quite good, others are of middling quality and written in a style that makes them useful only to popular audiences and as general introductions to the subject. The distinguished military historians Williamson Murray and Allan Millett have thus managed to trod new ground with their recently published history of World War II, *A War to Be Won*, because their book is highly readable yet rigorous and scholarly in its tone and style. It is rare when a book can reach both popular and academic readers, but the authors of *A War to Be Won* have accomplished this difficult feat.

Murray and Millett are both university academics and highly respected military historians. It is refreshing to read their depiction of the war and the manner in which they describe events with a detached, analytical, and evenhanded style. Throughout the book, the authors endeavor to give the reader the "big picture." Further, they are able to connect many disparate and far-flung events to wider questions of political policy and scholarly interpretations. For example, when discussing the war in Europe, the authors weave into their narrative much of the research that has been done about the ideology of the German Army. The book moves along nicely and is organized by various themes that help make a wide-ranging and far-flung subject more understandable. Personality is also an interesting element of the book, and the authors provide incisive character studies of many of the war's leading figures.

The book would be of great use to both students and teachers of history. Teachers will appreciate the book's readability and the conclusions it provides. They will also have an opportunity to gain some familiarity with the tenor of the scholarly work that has been done on the Second World War. The book would be even more useful to students. The authors avoid being too analytic in their descriptions of the