

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

various campaigns and battles and they save the reader from being mired in an endless litany of obscure places and combat formations. As such, students would be able to read the book and not become confused in a morass of military jargon. Should they get confused, the authors provide a primer of sorts in the appendices that defines and describes basic military terminology and discusses how armies and governments go about the business of fighting a war. This section in itself would be a valuable resource for students. Further, the chapters in the book act as self-contained units that would afford the opportunity for students to learn about various aspects of the war without having to read several hundred pages.

Despite the fact that the history of the Second World War has been written many times, Professors Murray and Millett have provided an important contribution to the field of military history. *A War to be Won* is a balanced, even-handed and thoroughly professional study of the Second World War, and it would be of value to teachers and students equally.

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Remembering the Forgotten War: The Korean War in American History. 60-Minute Video and Study Guide. Produced by the National Archives & Records Administration, the Dept. of Communication of Central Missouri State University, and the Center for the Study of the Korean War, Independence, MO. **Purchase:** Emblem and Supply Catalog of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. 816-756-3390. \$10. **Borrow:** Free for maximum of 6 weeks; pay return postage. Contact Tim Rives, National Archives—Central Plains Region, 2312 E. Bannister Road, Kansas City, MO 64131. 816-926-7272. {HYPERLINK <mailto:trives@smtp.nara.gov> }

Remembering the Forgotten War: The Korean War in American History is an instructional video designed to supplement the study of the Korean War. Using historical photos and casual conversation, this is an easy-to-follow introduction to the events surrounding America's and the United Nations' involvement in one of our nation's most forgotten wars.

The Korean War (1950-53) began with America's genuine distrust of the Soviet Union. With the ending of World War II, the United States entered the Cold War, believing that the Soviet Union wanted to conquer the world. Led by Senator Joseph McCarthy, our national leaders moved to rid the United States of communist sympathizers. Sensing America's nervousness, Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin led Soviet North Korean forces into U.S. South Korean zones of occupation as a means of testing the United States's willingness to fight communism. Before long, UN-authorized American troops were on the border dividing North and South Korea. Without a