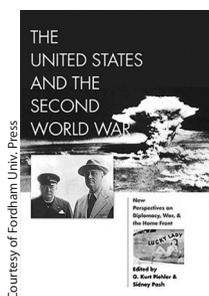


With Friends Like These represents a monumental effort by Watts to come to terms with Romania's Warsaw Pact legacy. Although it is poorly edited and somewhat lengthy—at times it becomes mired in the details of covert activity—it is nonetheless a worthwhile read for those who wish to understand contemporary Romania. In particular, Watts's understanding of Romanian strategic culture and his access to communist-era archives combine to make this volume a must read for those interested in Cold War history and the Warsaw Pact.



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400 pages

\$46.00

The United States and the Second World War: New Perspectives on Diplomacy, War, and the Home Front

edited by G. Kurt Piehler and Sidney Pash

Reviewed by Colonel Matthew Moten, Professor and Deputy Head, Department of History, United States Military Academy

Editors Piehler and Pash gathered students and colleagues of John Whiteclay Chambers II to publish this anthology in his honor. Chambers is a prolific historian, author of *To Raise an Army: The Draft Comes to Modern America* and editor of *The Oxford Companion to American Military History*, to name just two of his many well-regarded works. This volume is part of the Fordham University Press series, *World War II: The Global, Human, and Ethical Dimension*, of which Piehler is also general editor.

Eleven essays range from Depression-era foreign policy to the American pacifist and antinuclear movements during the Cold War. The editors have arranged chapters into sections on foreign policy, the home front, the conduct of the war, and the end and aftermath of the war. Sidney Pash provides a useful and detailed introduction.

In their examination of the 1941 decision to provide convoy escorts for Atlantic shipping, J. Garry Clifford and Robert H. Ferrell portray FDR at his wiliest. Roosevelt cagily gave the appearance of leading while refusing to get too far in front of the public. Instead, he allowed events, such as the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, to create popular momentum for convoys. The authors poke holes in FDR's reputation for bipartisan war leadership, showing that he disdained politicking with the congressional opposition. In "Containment, Rollback, and the Onset of the Pacific War, 1933-1941," Pash explores prewar United States-Japanese relations. The Americans were largely successful in containing Japanese expansion, but they changed course in 1941, aggressively attempting to reverse Japanese gains. Pash deftly shows how an ill-considered policy shift helped bring on the war it was meant to avert. Secretary of State Cordell Hull's historical reputation continues to wane.

Two essays comprise the home front section. Justin Hart marshals a fascinating cast of characters—Archibald MacLeish, Robert Sherwood, and

William “Wild Bill” Donovan, to name a few—to tell the story of American wartime propaganda. The Office of War Information (OWI) had jurisdiction over both foreign and domestic information campaigns, but was it their prerogative to construct the message, or merely to present it? Bureaucratic wrangling over that question, and the nation’s embarrassing race relations, hobbled the propaganda effort. Nonetheless, OWI set precedents for “projecting America” that continue to resonate in public diplomacy. In “Allotment Annies and Other Wayward Wives” Ann Pfau presents an impressive array of sources in her discussion of popular perceptions of service wives’ sexual fidelity, readjustment problems for returning veterans, and women’s roles in facilitating their soldiers’ transitions to peacetime.

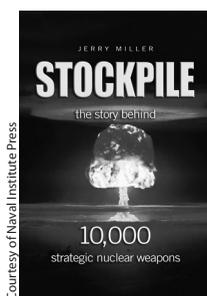
The bulk of the anthology treats those who fought and those who refused to fight the war. Two essays focus on maritime services. Barbara Brooks Tomblin’s “Naval Gunfire Support in Operation Neptune: A Reexamination,” offers an almost ship-by-ship, round-by-round narrative of naval operations in support of the US Army’s D-Day landings on Utah and Omaha beaches. Her research is exhaustive, but her prose exhausting. Tomblin makes important points about what the Allies learned and failed to learn from earlier amphibious assaults, but the editors did her no favor by allotting her sixty-five pages, more than a sixth of the book. Mark A. Snell provides a more readable account of Operation Neptune, focusing on the US Coast Guard’s critical but under-reported role in ferrying American soldiers to the beaches.

Nicholas Molnar shatters General George S. Patton’s risible public advocacy of the M4 Sherman tank. Molnar shows that the general was well aware of the Sherman’s flaws, but championed it nonetheless for fear that unchallenged criticism of it would damage morale. “The War Winning Sherman Tank Myth” owes much to Patton’s prevarications and continues to color World War II historiography. Kurt Piehler examines the unprecedented attention that FDR, General George C. Marshall, and others lavished on the need to capture the history of the war. S.L.A. Marshall, Forrest Pogue and other historians made path-breaking use of oral history to tell the stories of soldiers—from the grunts in the Pacific to the generals in the Pentagon. Because of their efforts, both military history and oral history grew in acceptance and influence in the postwar era.

Scott H. Bennett explores the experiences of tens of thousands of conscientious objectors, arguing that they, too, were part of the “greatest generation.” Between 25,000 and 50,000 pacifists took noncombatant jobs in the military, while another 6,000 went to prison. The Civilian Public Service (CPS) employed 12,000 objectors, largely in roles reminiscent of the Civilian Conservation Corps, but some in dangerous occupations such as smoke jumping. Others volunteered as human subjects in medical research. All who served in CPS did so without pay, insurance, or workmen’s compensation, causing many to condemn the program as “slave labor.” Pacifists fought not only against the war, but for racial equality and humane treatment of the mentally handicapped, developing techniques of civil disobedience that the civil rights movement later perfected.

The final two essays examine preparations for the occupation of Japan and pacifist and antinuclear commemorations of Hiroshima Day.

Anthology is a fragile genre, depending as it does upon the skills of many to produce one work. The authors and editors are praiseworthy for the depth of their research and the general lucidity of their prose. Half the essays could stand on their own as articles in scholarly journals. Yet the question for readers is how well the chapters work together to form a book. The authors, joined in a *fest-schrift* to John Whiteclay Chambers II, are touching various parts of an elephant called World War II, and some have described those parts quite well. Alas, their collective efforts don't provide a clearer understanding of the animal itself.



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273 pages

\$37.95

Stockpile: The Story Behind 10,000 Strategic Nuclear Weapons

by Jerry Miller

Reviewed by George H. Quester, Professor Emeritus of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, Shapiro Visiting Professor, George Washington University

This is in part a history of why the American (and Soviet) nuclear weapons stockpiles grew so spectacularly large, presented by someone who was a first-hand observer and participant in many of the crucial choices on strategy and targeting. As an eyewitness account of the decisions and of the decisionmakers, this book will be indispensable for anyone doing advanced research on the subject. Clearly written (if somewhat repetitious in places) with a view to making the physical choices clear for someone untrained in physics, it might also serve as a very useful text for undergraduate courses or graduate seminars in national security.

As with any eyewitness reconstruction of a memoir, there are points where some reader caution may be in order, as the author's opinions on the character of the people involved, and on the big issues at stake, come through sometimes with a bit of an opinionated tone. And memory can fail anyone four or five decades later, on the complete logic of the strategic decisions made, and on the paths that were chosen or not chosen.

The author spent an important portion of his career with the United States Navy's team in Omaha making inputs to the Single Integrated Operational Plan for waging nuclear war, and he has interacted with a wide variety of civilian arms control and strategic research centers since his retirement. He can thus in no way be typecast as a simple "retired admiral," for he is very attuned to the criticisms that civilians have made of the nuclear arms race. While some of his prose indeed betrays the normal biases of a military professional about civilian academics who have never been in uniform or in combat, he at the same time endorses the normal outsider's criticism that the nuclear arsenal was allowed to grow much too large.