

Shirer, William L. The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: a history of Nazi Germany. Shirer's monumental study of Hitler's German Empire has been widely acclaimed as the definitive record of this century's blackest hours. The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich offers an unparalleled and thrillingly told examination of how Adolf Hitler nearly succeeded in conquering the world.

Smith, Larry. Iwo Jima: World War II veterans remember the greatest battle of the Pacific. The men who fought and survived the deadliest battle of the Pacific come to life in this powerful oral history. With dozens of photographs and maps, Iwo Jima is an unprecedented look at this pivotal battle and an inspiring study in courage, perseverance, and humanity.

Terkel, Studs. The Good War: an oral history of World War II. Presents the good, the bad, and the ugly memories of World War II from a perspective of forty years of after the events.

Wiesel, Elie. Night. Wiesel's masterpiece, a candid, horrific, and deeply poignant autobiographical account of his survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps.

Yellin, Emily. Our Mother's War: American women at home and at the Front during World War II. Re-creates what American women from all walks of life were doing and thinking, on the home front and abroad; stunning and unprecedented portrait of women during World War II, a war that forever transformed the way women participate in American society.



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World War II

NON-FICTION



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Bradley, James. Flyboys: a true story of courage. The true story of young American airmen who were shot down over Chichi Jima and, 60 years later, how America and the Japanese attempted cover up of the truth of what happened. Also authored: "Flags of Our Fathers" and "Band of Brothers"

Brokaw, Tom. The Greatest Generation. Tom Brokaw goes out into America, to tell through the stories of individual men and women the story of a generation, America's citizen heroes and heroines who came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America.

Dower, John. W. Embracing Defeat: Japan in the wake of World War II. Drawing on a vast range of Japanese sources and illustrated with dozens of astonishing documentary photographs, Embracing Defeat is the fullest and most important history of the more than six years of American occupation, which affected every level of Japanese society, often in ways neither side could anticipate.

Frank, Anne. The Diary of a Young Girl: the definitive edition. Anne Frank's "The Diary of a Young Girl" is among the most enduring documents of the twentieth century. Since 1947, it has been a beloved and deeply admired monument to the indestructible nature of the human spirit.

Hastings, Max. Armageddon: The battle for Germany, 1944-45. The crucial final months of the twentieth century's greatest global conflict come alive in this rousing and revelatory chronicle.

Hersey, John. Hiroshima. Describes the effect of the bombing of Hiroshima on six survivors of the atomic blast.

Hillenbrand, Laura. Unbroken: A World War II story of survival, resilience and redemption. On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared--Lt. Louis Zamperini. Captured by the Japanese and driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor.

Houston, Jane Wakatsuki. Farewell to Manzanar. A Japanese-American woman looks back on life at an internment camp during World War II and tells of how the fear, confusion, and ultimate dignity of the people there shaped her life.

Keegan, John. Six Armies in Normandy: from D-Day to the liberation of Paris. The armies of six nations met on the battlefields of Normandy in what was to be the greatest Allied achievement of World War II. With dramatic, driving power, John Keegan describes the massed armies--American, Canadian, English, French, German, and Polish--at successive stages of the invasion.

Klemperer, Victor. I Will Bear Witness: A diary of the Nazi years: 1933-1941. (and Volume 2: 1941-1945). A Dresden Jew, a veteran of World War I, a man of letters and historian of great sophistication, Klemperer recognized the danger of Hitler as early as 1933. His diaries, written in secrecy, provide a vivid account of everyday life in Hitler's Germany. Klemperer writes: "It's not the big things that are important, but the everyday life of tyranny, which may be forgotten. A thousand mosquito bites are worse than a blow on the head. I observe, I note, the mosquito bites."

Meacham, Jon. Franklin and Winston: an intimate portrait of an epic friendship. A portrait of the complex emotional connection between Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, the two men who led the Free World to victory in World War II. At the time, there had never been anything like the friendship between the two men, and there has not been anything really like it since.

Nez, Chester. The Code Talker. In this memoir, the eighty-nine-year-old chronicles both his war years and his life growing up on the Checkerboard Area of the Navajo Reservation--the hard life that gave him the strength, both physical and mental, to become a Marine. His story puts a living face on the legendary men who developed what is still the only unbroken code in modern warfare.

Rotter, Andrew Jon. Hiroshima: the world's bomb. The US decision to drop an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima on 6 August 1945 remains one of the most controversial events of the twentieth century. However, the controversy over the rights and wrongs of dropping the bomb has tended to obscure a number of fundamental and sobering truths about the development of this fearsome weapon.