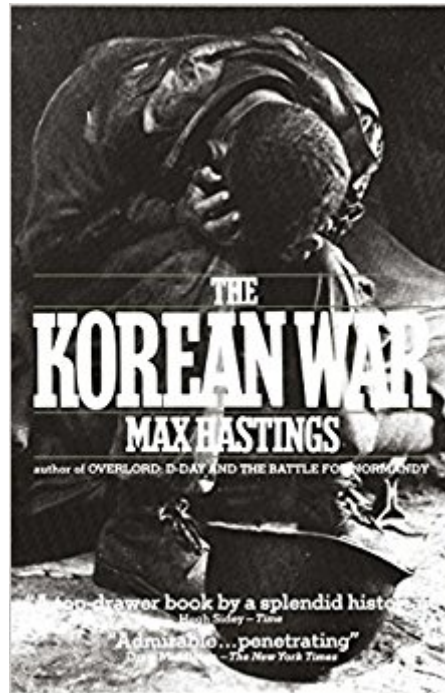




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The Korean War



Synopsis

It was the first war we could not win. At no other time since World War II have two superpowers met in battle. Now Max Hastings, preeminent military historian takes us back to the bloody bitter struggle to restore South Korean independence after the Communist invasion of June 1950. Using personal accounts from interviews with more than 200 vets—including the Chinese—Hastings follows real officers and soldiers through the battles. He brilliantly captures the Cold War crisis at home—the strategies and politics of Truman, Acheson, Marshall, MacArthur, Ridgway, and Bradley—and shows what we should have learned in the war that was the prelude to Vietnam.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Korean War has been misunderstood and neglected. Hastings had the unique opportunity of interviewing Chinese and North Korean veterans, a source denied to most Western historians. He shows how Korea served as a prelude to Vietnam and why Americans were making the same mistakes 15 years later. One minor criticism: Hastings devotes much space to the operations of the British Commonwealth Division. The Commonwealth never had more than 20,000 men in Korea; the United States had well over 500,000. Recommended for most academic and public libraries; for a more extensive history buy Edwin P. Hoyt's trilogy, *Pusan Perimeter*, *On to the Yalu*, and *Bloody Road to Panmunjon*. BOMC and History Book Club alternates. Stanley Itkin, Hillside P.L., New Hyde Park, N.Y. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Hugh Sidey Time A top-drawer book by a splendid historian. Drew Middleton The New York Times Admirable...penetrating. Stephen E. Ambrose author of Eisenhower: The President and Nixon: The Education of a Politician Rings true and will surely stand the test of time....Max Hastings has no peer as a writer of battlefield history. Richard M. Nixon Must reading for any American who wants to understand one of the watershed events of the post-World War II period. Alistair Horne author of The Price of Glory Fair and immensely readable...a major contribution to more than just military history....Max Hastings is among the ablest of the younger generation of British military historians....He now illuminates the struggle that changed all perceptions of the post-1945 world.

Hasting's military histories are uniformly excellent - this one is no exception. For the American reader the book is particularly interesting in that the emphasis is on Commonwealth forces. I recommend it.

Written more objectively, in the context of when it was written, the author does a good job of illustrating the strategic overview of the war.

Hard for American to swallow the distain for America....why would this constant narrative of diminishing a country that bled so hard twice ..and as we sit today with North Korea a serious threat perhaps UN allies should have supported a better conclusion

another tour de force from this preeminent british author. a factual retelling of the Korean conflict that is clear, concise, and factual.

This is the best book on the subject I have read so far. The author is British and therefore has no patriotic ax to grind about either the motives or the performance of the United States in this war. He acknowledges that Syngman Rhee was a brutal and corrupt dictator who committed numberless atrocities against his own people, but he makes a compelling argument that the regime under Kim Il Sung was far worse, and given the status of North Korea today the argument is hard to refute. The Americans were guilty of ignorance and lack of tactical vision, but Hastings affirms that their motives for fighting the war were sound. Here is his concluding statement: "If the Korean War was a frustrating, profoundly unsatisfactory experience, more than thirty-five years later it still seems a struggle that the West was utterly right to fight."

Fantastic history of the Korean War, Hastings is one of the very best. What makes him unique is besides giving you all the details, he constantly has input from front line troops and civilians (both sides in many areas) as this all proceeded - allowing you to have a good picture of what was happening at the macro and micro level.

Hastings writing makes for easy reading

This is one of the author's best works. A reader of history will enjoy. I also enjoyed the parallels between Korea and Vietnam a decade later.

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