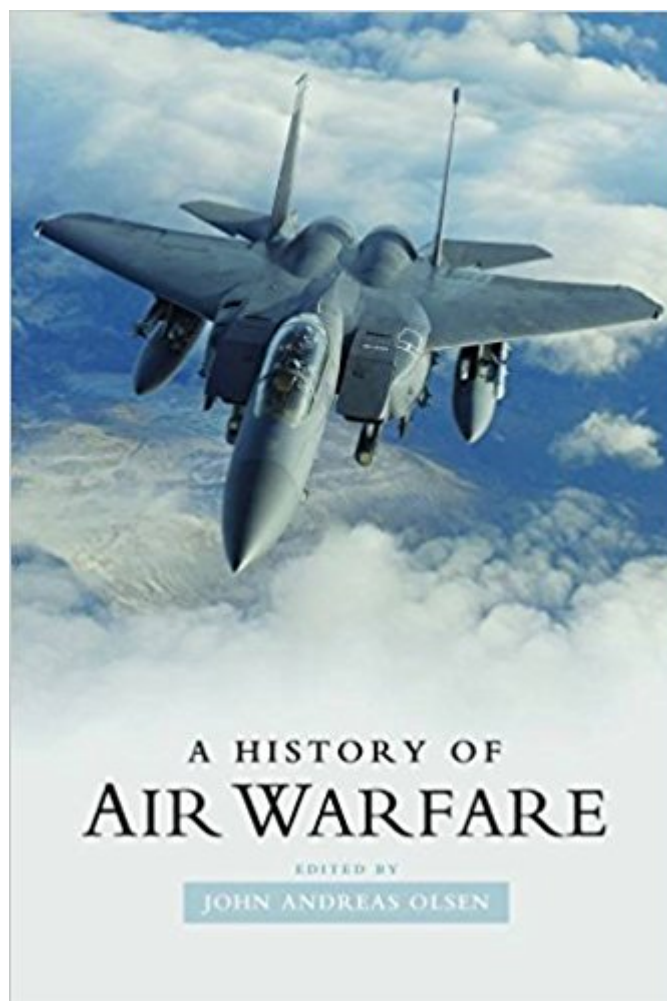


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# A History Of Air Warfare



## Synopsis

\*\*\*Selected for the 2010 Chief of the United States Air Force's Reading List\*\*\*This one-volume anthology provides a comprehensive analysis of the role that air power has played in military conflicts over the past century. Comprising sixteen essays penned by a global cadre of leading military experts, *A History of Air Warfare* chronologically examines the utility of air power from the First World War to the second Lebanon war, campaign by campaign. Each essay lays out the objectives, events, and key players of the conflict in question, reviews the role of air power in the strategic and operational contexts, and explores the interplay between the political framework and military operations proper. The concluding section offers wider perspectives by focusing on air and space power in both unconventional and conventional warfare from 1913 to the present. More than a simple homage to air power, *A History of Air Warfare* exposes air power's strengths and weaknesses and, where relevant, illuminates the challenges of joint operations and coalition warfare. Because of its critical approach, even treatment, and historical background, the book will appeal to modern warfare scholars, air power specialists, and general readers interested in military history alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A History of Air Warfare is an epic work that captures all the essential elements that have made the airplane a dominant force in warfare." --General Charles A. Horner, USAF (Ret.)" John Olsen has assembled the best historians of air power; the result is a superb overview, indispensable to anyone interested in how the expansion of warfare into the third dimension has transformed the art of war. A first-rate work." --Eliot Cohen, Robert E. Osgood Professor of Strategic Studies, Johns Hopkins

University”A History of Air Warfare is. . . in a class of its own. Olsen and his very expert authors deliver on the promise of providing a history of air power that is both appreciatively celebrating and critical, as the record requires. No existing history even comes close to Olsen for domain, depth, and contextual analysis.” --Colin S. Gray, professor of politics and international relations, University of Reading --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

John Andreas Olsen is the dean of the Norwegian Defence University College, head of its division for strategic studies, and visiting professor of operational art and tactics at the Swedish National Defence College. He is an active-duty colonel in the Norwegian Air Force and has lectured widely in Europe and the United States. His previous publications include *Strategic Air Power in Desert Storm* (Frank Cass, 2003) and *John Warden and the Renaissance of American Air Power* (Potomac Books, 2007). He lives in Oslo, Norway.

Somewhat dry but an outstanding volume on the first hundred years of combat air power. Broken up into five sections, it covers the development, use, and effectiveness of air warfare from a fairly strategic viewpoint. For example, it covers broad concepts of airpower in WW2 in terms of why the US and UK could develop concepts of an effective air supply system, while Germany and the USSR were not due to having to focus on operational support for their frontline armies. This isn't a book where you'll be able to sit back and imagine yourself flying in some battle in the past; rather it is to give the reader an idea of how external forces move and influence implementing air power, so they can better predict and take advantage of whatever factors influence the air war of the future. Highly recommended for the students and future leaders of air power

Although this book may provide a comprehensive analysis of the role that air power has played in military conflicts over the past century, but in the other hand I find it so stuffed with some unnecessary details, instead of that it focused on one side than the other. True it comprised essays penned by a global cadre of leading military experts, but it would not fit in this book, it should be put in two parts instead of one huge stuffed book. The concluding section however offers wider perspectives by focusing on air and space power in both unconventional and conventional warfare from 1913 to the present. Also although some might find it a positive aspect of the book is that it wasn't written by one or two writers; I find it a negative move but not so badly. In summary: as you read through the book you gain an understanding of how certain aspects of air power (technical, logistical, strategy or tactical) developed over a number of conflicts. This book is good for the normal

readers who want to discover the aerial warfare history with an interest or viewpoint on the past, present or future of air power.

Used this for s history paper, not the greatest book but not the worst, no gripes on anything in particular or specifics I just didn't think it was that great of a read

This is an outstanding text on the history of air warfare providing very intriguing details of air power as a weapon of war. The author has gone through great lengths to detail the origins of flight inventions and the consequent impact on success or defeat on the battlefield. It is too bad that Olson chose Van Doren to do the reading in this audio presentation. Van Doren's melodramatic delivery detracts from the scholarly tone of the book, and his inability to pronounce French, Italian, and German names, places, and nouns, presents this embarrassing performance which sent me to purchase the book for quiet reading.

I am reviewing the audible version. How can a topic so interesting, exciting and adventurous be told in such a bland and boring manner? The author fails to detail innovations, aircraft specifics, inventions and the developmental methods that one would hope to hear in such a book. Rather the Author reviews a timeline and with little else. The content is long, bland and quite unthrilling. Am I wrong for wanting a little detail (aircraft innovation) and adventure in such a topic?

Any library strong in military aviation titles will relish *A HISTORY OF AIR WARFARE*, a fine assembly of papers on air power history and development and a 'bible' packed with information. This captures the changing history of air warfare and analyzes the role air power has played in military conflicts over the last century. These sixteen essays pack a punch and are a 'must' for any serious military history library.

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