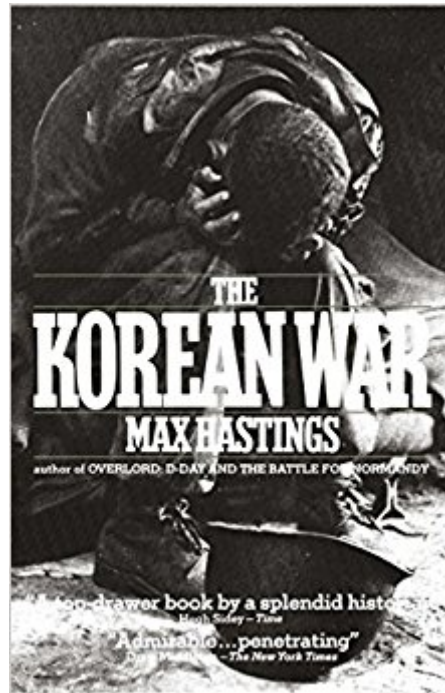


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Korean War



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.

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Customer Reviews

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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