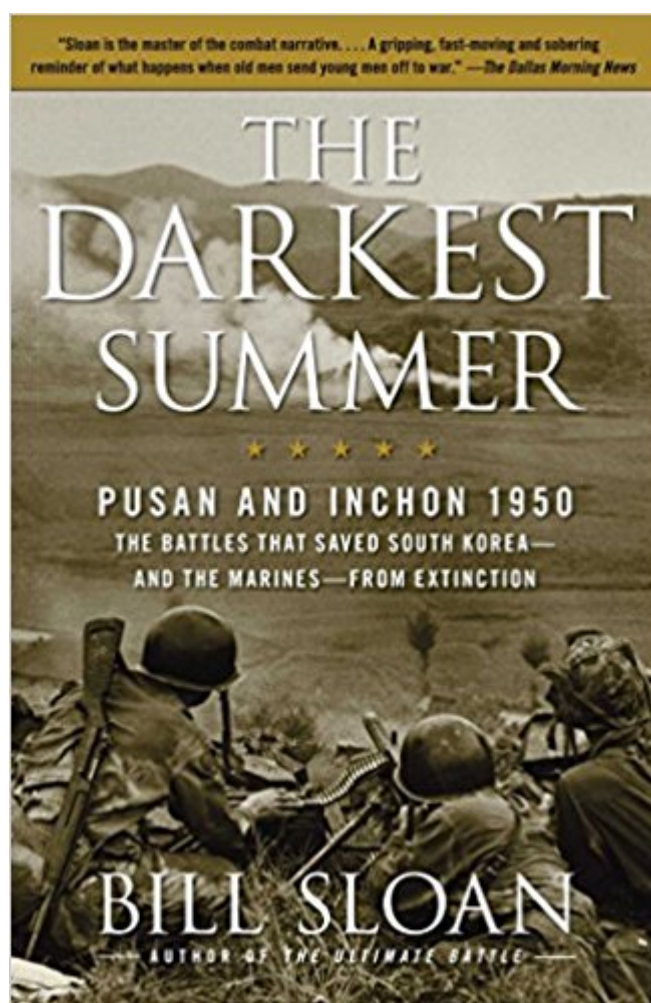


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# The Darkest Summer: Pusan And Incheon 1950: The Battles That Saved South Korea--and The Marines--from Extinction



## Synopsis

The Darkest Summer is the dramatic story of the first three months of the Korean War as it has never been told before. A narrative studded with gripping eyewitness accounts, it focuses on the fateful days when the Korean War's most decisive battles were fought and the Americans who fought them went " however briefly "from the depths of despair to the exultation of total conquest. Drawing on exclusive interviews with dozens of surviving U.S. veterans, it reveals how one ninety-day period changed the course of modern history and opens a unique and revealing window on an all-but-forgotten war.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Darkest Summer" is not only exciting reading -- a cautionary tale about Korea in 1950 -- but it should also make every sensible reader ask why it's a good idea to fight in faraway foreign countries like Korea, or Afghanistan today, without a plan for victory or an exit strategy." -- Michael Korda, author of "Ike" "How did we get enmeshed in this struggle halfway around the world? Was it worth it? Was it victory, defeat, or merely stalemate? In Bill Sloan's well-told tale, I found my answers." -- Joseph E. Persico, author of "Roosevelt's Secret War" "The Darkest Summer" is a truly heroic book. In heart-pounding detail, Bill Sloan recounts the most momentous season in the history of the U.S. Marine Corps -- the fateful summer of 1950. Riveting from the first page to the last." -- Alex Kershaw, author of "Escape from the Deep" and "The Bedford Boys" "There is no story quite like this in military history -- the epic tale of how the American Army, the mightiest war machine in the history of the world in 1945, was surprised and overrun a mere five years later by a nation that had been a

subject-state of Japan in 1945. And then how America's pathetically ill-prepared armed forces regrouped with astonishing speed and launched one of the most audacious counteroffensives in military annals, one that saved South Korea from communism and changed the course of world history. The Darkest Summer is a stunningly good military history, crafted in the style of an accomplished novel, with characters that are almost too interesting to be believed." -- Donald L. Miller, author of "Masters of the Air""The Darkest Summer" is a harrowing and heroic tale of Korean War valor. By interviewing U.S. Marines who fought at Pusan and Inchon, Bill Sloan transports the reader to ground zero in Korea. A truly riveting read." -- Douglas Brinkley, author of "The Wilderness Warrior""In 1950, President Truman and others were in the process of a military reunifying and downsizing that would have essentially eliminated the U.S. Marine Corps. Then came Korea, and in the battles for Pusan and Inchon, the Marines did what had to be done. Bill Sloan, the premier chronicler of war at the ground level, tells the whole awful, bloody story in his superb "The Darkest Summer", a dead-on account that answers forever the question, 'What is war really like?'" -- Jim Lehrer, anchor of "The NewsHour" on PBS and author of "Oh, Johnny"

Bill Sloan is a respected military historian and author of more than a dozen books, including Brotherhood of Heroes: The Ultimate Battle. He lives in Dallas, Texas.

I want to like this book. I've read Bill Sloan previously, and like his material. I suppose "The Darkest Summer" is an exception. It's good, but the kindle version is missing pages, so its impossible to follow the story completely. The kindle version also has no maps. I wish publishers could understand how difficult it is to read a military history without maps to track the action geographically. Don't take this as a criticism of Bill Sloan, he's a very good author. His publishers have failed him with regards to the kindle version of this book.

Fantastic account of the early days of the Korean war (UN police action). I was especially interested in the formation and employment of the 1st Marine Brigade early in the war. My father joined B/1/5 as second platoon commander in November, 1950 as the Regiment advanced towards the Yalu river and the famous "frozen Chosin" action. Incredible accounts of Marines doing what Marines do best. I actually bought it for a friend of mine who served with my dad at that time as a squad leader, second platoon, B/1/5. He thoroughly enjoyed it also.

Mr Sloan has done something unique, held my attention on a subject that I have read much on. His

account of the three critical months that saved South Korea and the US Marines as an organized fighting unit. Interesting accounts of the brutal fights and the brave army and Marines that stemmed the tide of the North Koreans. It is packed with facts, amazing characters that did the impossible and faced a ruthless foe bent on victory at any cost. I would rank this among Mr Sloan's best works and I have read several of his other books. I recommend this title for anyone wanting to learn more about our brave military members then and now and to discover the horrific conditions they had to back in 1950 - the year I was born. Tough guys and glad we had men like these when we needed them. Real American heroes and Sloan does justice to the other UN forces that stepped up to the plate in dire times as these.

Outstanding book, well worth the read. I have read this author in the past and he does as always an outstanding job in this work

This is one of the best books I have read in a long time, I learned things that I didn't know about the Korean war, a very personal book for me, *The Darkest Summer: Pusan and Inchon 1950: The Battles That Saved South Korea--and the Marines--from Extinction* featuring a relative and war hero 2nd Marine Lt. Frank Muetzel, this is one of those books that is very hard to put down once you start reading it, fast pace and extremely intriguing with every page you turn to, if you want to read an excellent book about the hard fought Korean war, then you will not go wrong with this book " *The Darkest Summer*" by Bill Sloan.

Another Bill Sloan book about war, the guy really knows how to tell a good story and make you have some small idea of what the soldiers on the ground went through. This "little forgotten" was a near disaster for us and this book tells how lucky we were to have survived.

The USA never did understand this Military action gave notice to the Communist that we would defend our Commitment to helping Nations establish a democracy government and the Communist Military Take Overs would be met with Force -The News Media did not ever give our Citizen Soldiers Credit for responding to the Call of their Country - Had we not taken action after the North Korean Invasion, our whole World History would have been changed and the future would have been more of the Communist Takeover of the World by Military force just like the Nazi's - This Battle saved a lot more than South Korea!!

VERY COMPREHENSIVE AND DETAILED. IT GIVES THE GENERALS ACTIONS AND THOSE OF THE LOWEST RANKS. ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS ON KOREA AND WELL WORTH THE READING TIME.

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