

Callahan and Marston have created a sound work of scholarship that contributes significantly to the study of the China-Burma-India theater, and especially of Southeast Asia Command and the XIV Army. It has new archival material that provides a fresh perspective.

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*A History of the Second World War in 100 Maps.* By Jeremy Black. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020. ISBN 978-0-2267-5524-3. Maps. Charts. Figures. Photographs. Further Reading. Index. Pp. 256. \$35.00 (hardback).

In a discussion about the most vital areas exploited by the Allies in their victory over the Axis powers in the Second World War, one may seldomly hear the topic of mapping and imagery brought up, outside of perhaps the area of propaganda. Truly, in most mainstream cinematic depictions of the era, maps are cheap props overlooked or simplified in favor of showcasing human leadership and tactical decisions, albeit both important areas in and of themselves. Yet the impact that mapping and imagery had on both sides during the conflict, but more so for the Allies, can perhaps not be overstated.

In one of his latest volumes of work, Jeremy Black addresses this area by delving deep into the mapping of the Second World War. Black examines the field in terms of its effect on strategic, operational, and tactical matters during the conflict. The volume is laid out well, with 100 maps, pictorials, propaganda cartoons, and otherwise relevant images explained in detail and design with corresponding text that also provides the context of the sub-area of the conflict in which the specified map is examined. Black separates the maps and other imagery in his volume into seven key categories: geopolitics, strategic, operational, tactical, reportage, propaganda, and retrospective. The categories are well defined and include a variety of map types, such as prisoner-of-war escape maps and geological maps of water data, as well as strategic bombing and other tactical mapping documents. This classification system serves to give the reader a tour of the full breadth of the role that mapping played in the war for both the Allies and the Axis.

The Second World War spanned much more of the world's geography than the First World War, not least due to the increase in use of mechanized units and tactics, which also greatly increased the speed with which that geography was covered. Black discusses this notion when stating that "Maps were more extensively used for ground operations than had been the case in the First World War. This was partly because of the great mobility of units and movement of operations, not only on the Western and Eastern Fronts in Europe but also in the Mediterranean" (p. 106).

In conjunction with this increased use, maps were produced in record numbers during the war, but in different ways by the opposing sides. Black notes that "Whereas Germany, Italy and Japan did not carry out systematic mapping, and

generally simply overprinted, copied or enlarged existing maps, the Allies, and notably the Western Allies, carried out much new mapping” (p. 112). The benefits of improvements in mapping technology and production were seen in such ways as the Allies’ daily situation maps of the Western Front (pp. 52–55), which helped to fight a dynamic mobile war in ways not seen to that point in history.

Conversely, Black points out the illusion of simplicity that maps could provide in certain situations, such as for the German high command on the Eastern Front. He notes that “The practicalities of an operational space the size of the Soviet Union were not adequately grasped through maps using scales that made plotting moves too easy” (p. 74). Black also states that mapping could give commanders false optimism about advancing through heavily defended terrain, as at Stalingrad, where mapping “gave German commanders a misleading impression of their ability to strike through the city. In practice, individual urban complexes . . . proved formidable, well-defended obstacles” (p. 74). He also points out at times how mapping was unable to accurately describe or represent such information as relevant unit strength when displaying orders of battle that were understrength due to attrition.

This book impresses upon the reader a fresh, renewed sense of the importance of mapping in the Second World War. From the technologies and improvements in mapping production to the differences in map detail and design, Black provides a wealth of information to educate the reader. This volume would benefit anyone wanting to see the Second World War in more visual terms or desiring a deeper understanding of the details behind map design and production during the conflict. The variety of mapping and other documents presented make it an excellent addition to the library of any scholars of the conflict, regardless of their specific areas of interest.

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***Prisoners of History: What Monuments to World War II Tell Us about Our History and Ourselves.*** By Keith Lowe. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2020. ISBN 978-1-2502-3502-2. Maps. Photographs. Bibliography. Pp. xxii, 346. \$29.99 (hardback).

In *Prisoners of History*, Keith Lowe leads readers on a global tour of World War II monuments that begins in Russia and concludes in London with a discussion of the Liberation Route Europe, a transnational “memory trail” (p. 322) that, when completed, will wind through the principal sites liberated by Allied forces in 1944–45. The last chapter is a fitting conclusion to Lowe’s insightful overview of monuments erected to mark World War II’s impact on the modern world and express “a history that is still alive today, and which continues to govern our lives whether we like it or not” (p. xviii).

Lowe provides in-person descriptions of twenty-five monuments in countries spread across Asia, Europe, and North America. The geographic range of the book has the virtue of highlighting not just the expansive impact of the war, but also the ways in which it reinforced or exacerbated pre-existing trends and cultural atti-

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