

Book Review

5 *A History of the Second World War in 100 Maps*. By Jeremy Black. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020. ISBN 978-0-226-75524-3. Pp. 256, 150 colour plates. US \$35.00 (cloth).

10 Maps were both produced and used on an unprecedented scale, writes Professor Jeremy Black in his latest book titled, *A History of the Second World War in 100 Maps*. This coffee-table book is handsomely illustrated and was published by the University of Chicago in October 2020. Separating it from the large body of studies on the war, it includes several rarely seen maps, which should catch the eye of those interested in the study of maps, war and visual propaganda. Also novel is Black's thematic discussion of the war, different from the standard chronological approach, in which he explores seven themes: geopolitics, strategic, operational, tactical, 15 reportage, propaganda and retrospective.

20 Geography informed military and governmental policies, explains Black, and no one exemplified this more than the German leader Adolf Hitler. The Nazi leader co-opted the work of cartographers like Arnold Hillen Ziegfeld to justify his cause with maps such as *87,545,000 Deutsche in Europa: Der deutsche Bevölkerungs- und Kulturanteil in den Staaten Europas* (1938). Ziegfeld's map showed Germans living outside Germany in Europe. Hitler wanted those lands and dreamed of crushing communism and eradicating Jews and others the Nazis considered undesirable. Two years after Ziegfeld's map was published, the war was in full swing. Ernst Adler's *Der Krieg 1939/40 in Karten* (1940) celebrated Germany's incredible success in the east and in Scandinavia.

30 Military maps are key to the book. Black shares with us maps of the German situation that show that the Russian Front was the largest and deadliest part of the war. Maps like *Lage am 2.7.1941 abas* depict millions of men engaged in a titanic struggle that ranged from the Baltic states to the Black Sea. Hope for the Soviets arrived when the Western Allies landed in France on 6 June 1944 to alleviate pressure on the Russian Front. Operation Overland, the code name for the D-day Landings, is well illustrated in the U.S. 12th Army Group's daily situation map titled *Situation — 2400 HRS 6 June 1944 HQ. FUSAG*. The map, which is well known and an important document for this era of military history, reveals that many of Hitler's shoreline defence 40 forces were largely a mix of poorly trained and equipped units desperately trying to stave off the Allied juggernaut.

45 Before the now legendary D-day operation could commence, highly detailed planning was required.

50 Black describes how the Allies used maps to help organize land, sea and air logistics in England with maps like *Headquarters XIX District, Area 'K' Administrative Map Operation Overlord South Western Zone 15 April 1944*. Viewing it, one sees the complex network of communications and staging areas for troops and supplies. Getting the troops ashore was a complicated matter, too. 55 Intelligence about tides, water depth and military defences was gathered from geological sources, reconnaissance flights and secret Allied missions to France. The resulting charts, such as the U.S. Army 663rd Engineer Topographical Company's *Omaha Beach-East (Colleville-sur Mer) (1944)*, were top secret and saved lives. Cartographers and artists collaborated to illustrate water depth and terrain in a way that was easy to understand for personnel manning landing craft.

60 As Allied troops and tanks simultaneously squeezed the Nazis from the east and the west, American and British bombers overhead were punishing German command and control points and logistics, as shown in *Attacks of 100 Tons & Over by Eight Air Force & RAF Bomber Command during January 1945*. Although an impressive 70 document, maps such as this failed to show that bombs inadvertently fell on homes, churches and schools. The outraged German population responded with spontaneous acts of torture and, at times, summary executions for downed Allied airmen, who they called 'terror flyers'. Hence for this reason, and others, Allied air crews were issued with 'Escape Maps' in the event of capture. Black informs the reader that the silk maps were designed to be used without making noise, stored handily in a boot or jacket, and were durable, and waterproof. 80

85 Maps were not just for those in command and the field; they were used as propaganda. The Japanese map *Dai Tōa senkyoku chiz* (1942), for instance, cleverly combines images of warplanes and warships with representations of fuel, food and minerals in Southeast Asia, thus justifying Japan's military operations that, the map explained, were needed to secure resources for the empire. Of course, Japan was far from alone in the practice, which in fact was ubiquitous among the combatants.

90 Black's imaginative use of maps to tell the history of the Second World War is informative and revealing. One will walk away from his book with a greater appreciation of how maps pervaded nearly every aspect of the war. Perhaps the most startling documents Black includes are the maps *U.S Strategic Bombing Survey, Hiroshima before and after the Bombing* and *Atomic Bomb* 95

Damage Nagasaki, 1945. For those wishing to see the war anew, through the lens of maps, Professor Black's book is strongly recommended.

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