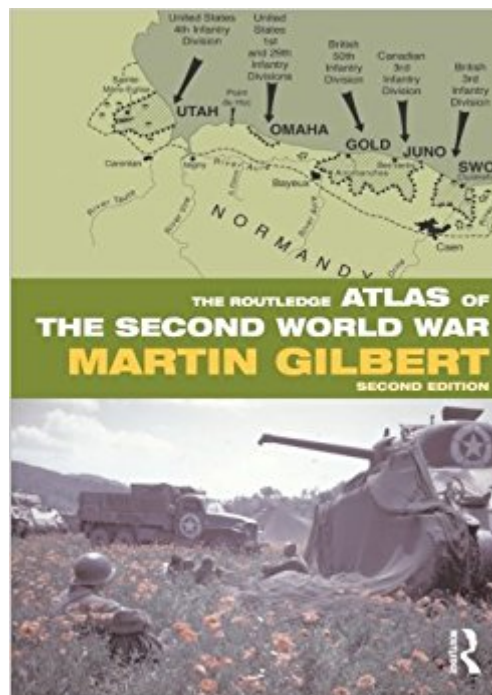




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The Routledge Atlas Of The Second World War (Routledge Historical Atlases)



Synopsis

In *The Routledge Atlas of the Second World War*, Martin Gilbert graphically charts the war's political, military, economic and social history through 257 illuminating maps. The atlas covers all the major events from the German invasion of Poland in September 1939 to the defeat of Japan in August 1945. Focusing on the human and inhuman aspects of the war, *The Routledge Atlas of the Second World War* includes examination of: military, naval and air campaigns on all the war fronts the war on land, at sea and in the air the economic and social aspects of the war the global nature of the war, in armed combat and in suffering the impact of the war on civilians, both under occupation, and as deportees and refugees the aftermath of the war: post-war political and national boundaries; war graves; and the human cost of the war on every continent. This paperback edition includes several updates to existing maps, as well as ten new maps, specially drawn for this edition. The new maps include examinations of Japanese- American and African- American soldiers serving with the United States Army, British women special agents, Belgium at War, and the German occupation of the Channel Islands.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This really is a brilliantly useful book | All in all, this is an outstanding reference work that can also be enjoyed as an unusual graphic history of the Second World War and its many political, economic and military dimensions." *Military Illustrated* 'Martin Gilbert's *The Routledge Atlas of the Second World War* is a riveting collection of original and informative maps. The

Observer 'Sir Martin Gilbert's Atlas of the Second World War is a work of extraordinary scholarship ... No university, library, historian or anyone interested in World War II will want to be without it.' " Henry Kissinger

Sir Martin Gilbert is one of the leading historians of his generation. An Honorary Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, he is the official biographer of Churchill and the author of eighty-two books, among them Churchill - A Life; The Second World War; D-Day; The Day the War Ended and the three-volume A History of the Twentieth Century. For more information please visit <http://www.martingilbert.com>.

I now own all of the Martin Gilbert Routledge Atlases. If you love history and prefer to understand history in context than these are all for you. They are not a low cost item but they are a high quality item. What sets these apart is the typeset and the quality of the paper and ink. If you are a fan of the Atlas genre you know full well that all maps are not created equally. Sure these are in so called black and white. They are however of such a quality that the ink shines. Each note from the Key is in a different shade of black so they really show up well. These are not like what you would find in a History Text. History texts books require either looking at footnotes and thumbing to the back of the book or looking at a half page map that is overdone in color format etc.....rendering study of the map difficult and disjointed. If you want to know about World War Two then get this Atlas. I use these along with books on my iPad to gain insight. I find myself looking at a map and then going to Wikipedia or even buying or borrowing a book from my library collection to learn more. I am of the generation that had all three Uncles and my Dad as active participants in the War. All serving in the Pacific. My father in law served in Africa and crossed into Sicily. Can truly see what all of them experienced as time went forward. Dates give you a clear picture of local and the forward momentum. History can be interesting.

The maps in this atlas can be rotated and viewed in landscape mode when zoomed in on a Kindle. The selection and information is decent but there is an issue with clarity of text in the maps themselves. As usual with Gilbert's work, a great deal of the value in his atlases is found in the boxes of text and labels within the maps themselves and in this version they are quite blurry even when zoomed in. In most cases, but not all, it is still legible making reading a chore even with good eyesight. A further caveat is that the work itself is covered in only 33% of the book the remainder being bibliography and index. With all of the above in mind it will be up to the individual to decide

whether or not the rather stiff price is worth the money. Hopefully the publishers will issue an update to correct the legibility issue by using a tighter focus on the map scans.

Great informational atlas RE WWII. I pre-ordered this atlas on Gilbert's reputation alone and am completely satisfied AT THE PRICE (under \$30 when I purchased it). Mr. Gilbert manages to give us a quality atlas at an affordable price. I recommend it wholeheartedly. If I was rating it against the perfect atlas, cost not a factor, I'd give it a 3.5--4 out of 5. What this atlas is not: an oversized volume with detailed color maps showing troop nomenclature, movements, and leaders. For this type of atlas, I recommend trying to get your hands on the out-of-print "The Times Atlas of the Second World War" by John Keegan (1995 printing preferable to the 1989). What this atlas is: Roughly 250 maps. Each page is filled with a separate map covering some WWII relevant occurrence. At first glance, the book doesn't have the flash of other atlases; The maps are black and white and you don't get detailed information RE battles (i.e. troop and leader identification for each battle, movements marked down to the hour, etc...). After digging into it, however, you get the full benefit of the atlas. Gilbert tells the story of WWII using individual maps. The maps don't just cover the obligatory battles that everyone remembers and studies. He goes much further. For instance, detailed maps on such topics as "German factories using foreign forced labour, 1941-1945" and "Civilian Victims of the German Repression: The Bialystok Region of Poland, 1941-1944" give you a glimpse of how Mr. Gilbert succeeds at covering more than just the battles of WWII. He covers economic, social, and political factors and does a good job of showing how the war affected those involved, both civilian and military. He is particularly effective at showing how Poland as a nation was affected. The book is slightly smaller than a standard 8.5" x 11" sheet of typing paper. This would normally bother me with an atlas but Gilbert's maps lend themselves to this format. It would have been nice to have some of the detailed maps in addition to the ones included but this would have assuredly raised the price and I don't believe that's what Gilbert was shooting for. All in all, this atlas is a must for the price. In combination with Keegan's atlas mentioned above, you get you everything you need from the perfect WWII atlas.

Here are 257 well researched maps you wished were in the books you've read on the Second World War. That, to me, is a serious shortcoming of most of the books. Many have loads of pictures, but few maps with which to orient yourself to events or gain an appreciation of the magnitude of them. The book divides the maps into twelve sections: 1. From the German invasion of Poland to the fall of France (e.g. Soviet massacres of Polish prisoners - 1940) 2. Britain alone, and its Allies (e.g.

German plan for the invasion of Britain) 3. The Soviet Union becomes an Allied Power (e.g. Soviet factories dismantled and sent Eastward for safety) 4. Japan and the United States enter the war (e.g. Pacific Naval battles, May 1942 - July, 1945) 5. The unrelenting struggle, 1942 and beyond (e.g. U-Boat sinkings in the Atlantic and Caribbean, January-May, 1942) 6. The unarmed and the civilians (e.g. The German concentration camp system) 7. Total War (e.g. The Anglo-American bombing of Germany, 1943-1945) 8. Year of decision, 1944 (e.g. Deceiving the Germans: The bogus Allied Army in Scotland, May, 1944) 9. The defeat of Germany (e.g. Liberating the concentration camps, 4 April - 7 May, 1945) 10. The defeat of Japan (e.g. United States plans for the invasion of Japan, November 1945 - March, 1946) 11. Global War (e.g. Signals Intelligence: Enigma-Ultra-Purple at war, 1939-1945) 12. Aftermath (e.g. War crimes trials, 1945-1987) The book is rather expensive, but I find it very worthwhile.

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