



World War II: A New History

By Evan Mawdsley

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This book is a magisterial global history of World War II. Beginning in 1937 with the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War, Evan Mawdsley shows how the origins of World War II lay in a conflict between the old international order and the new and then traces the globalisation of the conflict as it swept through Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. His primary focus is on the war's military and strategic history though he also examines the political, economic, ideological, and cultural factors which influenced the course of events. The war's consequences are examined too, not only in terms of the defeat of the Axis but also the break-up of colonial empires and the beginning of the Cold War. Accessibly written and well-illustrated with maps and photographs, this compelling new account also includes short studies of the key figures, events and battles that shaped the war.

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Review

"To write a concise book about the biggest war in history is no small task, but Evan Mawdsley has done it with masterful skill and insight... What makes this a must-buy for anyone interested in the subject is the beautifully produced maps, illustrations and 57 short boxes on topics ranging from "General Ludendorff and total war" to "The Katyn massacre". This is a superb read for students and general readers alike, but also an authoritative work of reference." -Joe Maiolo, BBC History Magazine

"It is a rare textbook that is both cutting and new: the book proves that we need to place the start of the Second World War in East Asia in 1937, rather than Europe in 1939 or Russia and Pearl Harbour in 1941. It changes how we write history." - Times Higher Education, What Are You Reading? section

"...Professor Mawdsley is to be much congratulated on writing such a clear and perceptive account, and one that provides much food for thought." -Charles Messenger, The Journal of Military History

"Fresh, insightful judgements and well-judged overall balance make this a masterful book. Its effectiveness is enhanced by the use of side panels that convey important factual information about the tools of war... without interrupting the flow of the narrative. In every respect - conception, design, construction and delivery - this is a book that really works". -War in History, John Gooch

About the Author

Evan Mawdsley is Professor of International History in the Department of History, University of Glasgow. His previous publications include The Russian Civil War (1983/2008), The Soviet Elite from Lenin to Gorbachev: The Central Committee and its Members, 1917-1991 (with Stephen White, 2000), The Stalin Years: The Soviet Union, 1929-1953 (2003) and Thunder in the East: The Nazi-Soviet War, 1941-1945 (2005).

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