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Hector C. Bywater

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(Mobile book) The Great Pacific War

The Great Pacific War

Hector C. Bywater : The Great Pacific War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Pacific War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book.By Cheri B.My husband was thrilled to get this book.17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. An interesting look at naval warfare from the 1920s.By A CustomerThis is a remarkable work, which details the 1920s view of what a then "near future" Pacific War would be like. Readers should NOT look for a prognostication of the Pearl Harbor attack or of Kamikazes. Hector Bywater correctly guessed the Japanese would engage in a surprise base attack to start the war, but conservatively placed it in the Philippines just as U.S. strategists assumed during the critical days prior to Pearl Harbor. This is nothing more than historical extrapolation from the start of the Sino- and Russo-Japanese wars. The only semblance of "kamikazes" is in rammings between aircraft (not confined to the Japanese) particularly when one pilot is fatally wounded, and the dramatic "last charge" of the battleship Mutsu, but even the fictitious observer of this event acknowledges it could be caused by a rudder casualty. This book is neither fantasy, nor prognostication, but accurate strategic speculation. Do NOT read it from the viewpoint of the future and knowledge of what happened in 1941-1945. Read it first from the perspective of what was known in 1926, and available 1920s and 1930s materiel. The Japanese Navy of 1932 was not capable of mounting an air raid on Pearl Harbor. It had neither the carriers, the aircraft nor the oilers to pull it off. The ascendancy of naval aviation was probably impossible any sooner than 1940-1941 because the aircraft were insufficiently advanced. Thus in Bywater's work, written in 1926, aviation is a significant factor for reconnaissance, but falls short in the attack. Bywater also assumes the use of gas, and his amphibious techniques are understandably

crude. Some of his best speculation regards the good and poor qualities of "Treaty Cruisers," and the Japanese propensity for building latent capabilities into hulls for later conversion. His reversion of the Akagi and Kaga to capital ships from carriers, foreshadowed the fitting of 8-inch guns to the Mogami and Tone Class cruisers prior to WWII. This work is a masterpiece of its time and imminently readable to boot. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. An account of naval warfare between US and Japan: 1931-33 By Steve Barrett Hektor Bywater, a British naval correspondent/expert, wrote a most engaging book in *The Great Pacific War*. In this book, he creates a fictional history of a war between Japan and the United States. This account, written 16 years before Pearl Harbor, details tactical and strategic considerations of such a war given the existing and projected sizes and dispositions of each country's navies and bases. The book provides insight into the thoughts and opinions of naval strategists and tacticians in the mid-twenties, particularly with regards the trends of naval air power vs dreadnought firepower. The battles recounted reminded me, to some extent, of another book, *Naval Battles of the First World War* by Geoffrey Bennett, as well as actual WWII accounts of cruiser/destroyer actions fought in the Pacific. An interesting aspect of the book was the analysis of each opponent's fleet and how those fleets were shaped by the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922. In all, a fascinating book and a must read for anyone interested in studying the origins of naval thought on tactics and strategies during the actual Pacific war of WWII.

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