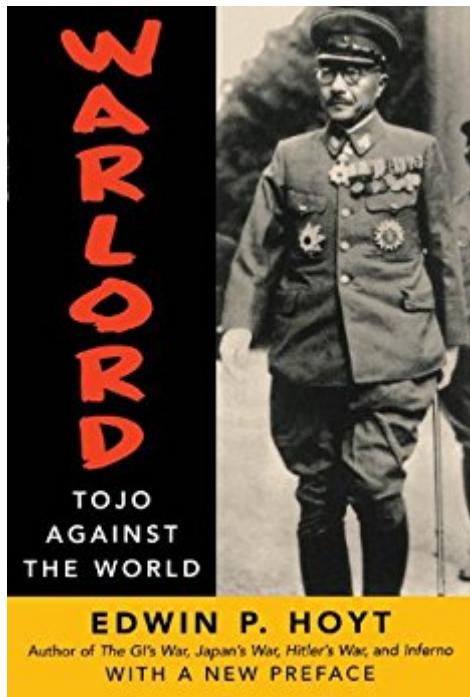


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Warlord: Tojo Against The World



Synopsis

Vilified in the West as the Japanese equivalent of Hitler, Hideki Tojo (1884-1948) was in fact cut from very different cloth. Lacking the skills and charisma of a statesman, fueled by no apocalyptic visions, Tojo was an unimaginative soldier whose primary goals were to establish Japan's military strength and serve his emperor. Yet his determination and ambition caused him to participate in the seizure of power when the military took over the government. WWII scholar Hoyt, a resident of Japan, relies on new sources and remarkable insight to show how Tojo and the leaders of Japan's armed forces gained control of the country, but how ambition ultimately proved to be Tojo's undoing.

Book Information

File Size: 1969 KB

Print Length: 286 pages

Publisher: Cooper Square Press; 1 edition (October 2, 2001)

Publication Date: July 24, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00BIZTJG2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #642,505 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #129 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Asia #171 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Asia > Japan #599 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Military & Wars > World War II

Customer Reviews

It is a curious truth that while much is popularly known about Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, and other European "bad boy" potentates, little if anything is popularly known about the architect and antagonist of the Japanese military state, Hideki Tojo. Yet he was Japan's premier for the greater part of World War Two, the front man for the militarists who had seized real control of the government in the mid 1930s. Unlike either Hitler or Mussolini, Tojo did not escape the judgment of the victorious allies, for he was one of the relatively few Japanese tried for war crimes after the war,

and was hanged in disgrace and humiliation. This, then, is an absorbing story of the ultimate true believer hung on the petard of his own fanaticism. Renowned historian Edwin P. Hoyt does an admirable job detailing the rise and corruption of this enigmatic and often phlegmatic leader, a modern day samurai who simply did not understand the tenor of his times, and who was instrumental in ushering Japan into a disastrous and suicidal conflict with the United States, even though a number of authorities with Japan such as Yamamoto warned an all-out war with the Americans would not likely be successful. Hoyt draws from an impressive array of little known documents from Japanese military archives, and from a number of recorded interviews with Japanese-American guards who came to know Tojo quite well during his captivity and trial at the infamous Sagumo Prison just outside Tokyo.

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