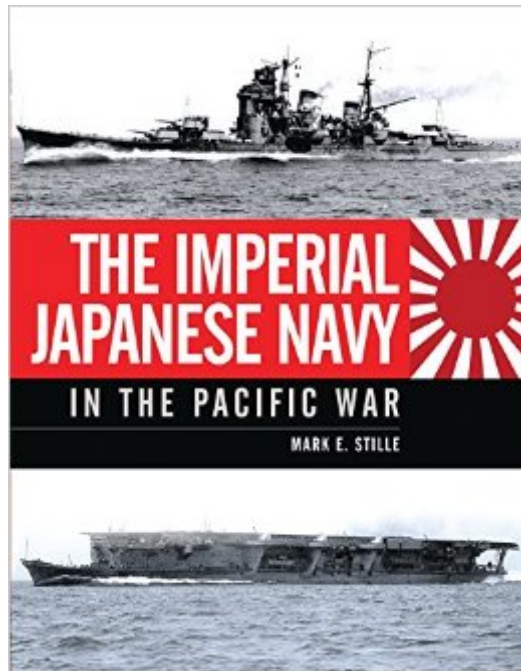


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The Imperial Japanese Navy In The Pacific War (General Military)



Synopsis

From the stunning victory at Pearl Harbor to its dramatic reversal at Midway, the Imperial Japanese Navy swept all before it in its numerous victories in the Pacific and Far Eastern waters. The Imperial Japanese Navy in the Pacific War pulls from many of Osprey's bestselling books on the subject in addition to the most recent research on the subject, including many sources from Japan, and is the most recent and accurate book on this fascinating force. Even after its setback at Midway, the IJN remained a powerful force and inflicted severe setbacks on the US Navy at Guadalcanal and elsewhere. The Imperial Japanese Navy focuses on the Japanese ships which fought the battles in the Pacific including design details, where and when they were engaged and their ultimate effectiveness. In addition, the construction, design and service history of each ship from destroyer size on up is included. A comprehensive survey of the submarine force is also included. Modifications of each ship are covered making this a valuable reference source for Pacific War enthusiasts and historians, as well as ship modelers. A short history of the IJN during the Pacific War places all warship design and history in proper context. Finally, a chapter discussing the strengths and weaknesses of the IJN is included ultimately asking the question of whether the IJN really was a modern Navy which was fully prepared for the rigors of combat in the Pacific.

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Customer Reviews

Author Mark Stille is a retired US Navy Commander with a particular interest in the naval history of the Pacific War. As such, he brings a rich understanding to his works - reinforced by his BA in

History from the University of Maryland and MA from the Naval War College. Not only does this man understand his subject from more than one perspective, he also possesses that vital quality of producing fascinating and very readable accounts. Access to all manner of documents and records from both sides of any conflict is essential in determining an accurate sequence of events. Japan, however, does not readily make such information available and I mention this in order to underline the exhaustive and detailed research undertaken in order to produce this outstanding work. This particular assessment of the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) during WW2 is long-awaited and much needed! Remarkably, it was a navy which only came into being in 1868 - and yet by 1941 had risen to become the 3rd most powerful in the world. It had defeated China in the war of 1894-5 and humiliated the Russian fleet at the Battle of Tsushima in 1905 - in a battle which was the most important and decisive naval engagement since Trafalgar 100 years earlier. By their exploits Japan had astonished the world. By 1941, the only naval force able to counter Japanese aggression was the US Navy and that was a confrontation for which Japan had been preparing and training for twenty years. The size of these two 'opposing' fleets favoured the US - although the Japanese expected their training and discipline to tip the balance in their favour.

Typically, it's the winners who write the histories of conflict, and World War II has been no exception. Most of what's been written about WW II in the Pacific has been written by Americans, which is to be expected, but until very recently, most of what those Americans have written has relied exclusively, or almost exclusively, on American sources, which have their own biases built in. An accurate assessment of what happened and why really requires access to, and use of, Japanese sources, which, until very recently, have either been unavailable, or lacked English translations (or American historians who were fluent in Japanese). Mark Stille's volume does much to correct that imbalance by making use of several Japanese sources. The result, while not perfect, is nonetheless very well done, and a worthwhile addition to the library of anyone interested in WW II in the Pacific. It's well-illustrated, and the technical aspects of most of the larger Japanese warships are thoroughly explained. The quality of the photos varies somewhat, but in large measure, that's the result of the source of the photo and the relatively small size at which they're reproduced in the book. Cutaway paintings of some individual ships are clear and detailed, and a number of maps and paintings of selected combat scenes, also in color, are included, as well. Exceptions to the 'relatively small size' note about photos are those that lead off each chapter/section of the book. They are reproduced at nearly 8 x 10 size, and I would be remiss if I did not specifically mention the widely-used image of the Japanese light carrier Zuiho

during the Battle of Leyte Gulf on October 25, 1944, on pages 52 and 53.

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