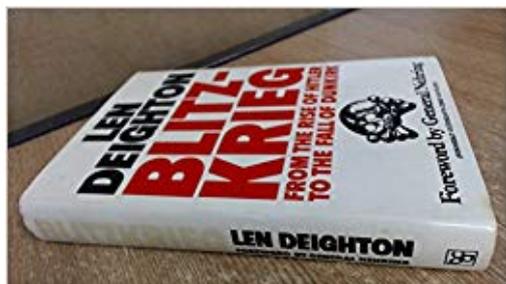


Blitzkrieg: From the Rise of Hitler to the Fall of Dunkirk *by* Illus. with photos, Len Deighton



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An account of Hitler's rise to power in a defeated, demoralized Germany and the German blitzkrieg campaign that led to the nearly fatal encirclement of the British and French at Dunkirk



Reviews of the **Blitzkrieg: From the Rise of Hitler to the Fall of Dunkirk** *by* Illus. with photos, Len Deighton

Kazigrel

I had never understood why and how the German people could elect a megalomaniacal psychopathic buffoon like Adolf Hitler. Mass insanity doesn't really address the problem. Len Deighton provides the most plausible explanation I have ever heard. For that he deserves five stars. For if we do not understand what happened it could well happen again. And not just in Germany.

Styphe

Blitzkrieg is just what I was looking for - a tightly written, easily understood entre into WWII history. The book spends some time running through the primary and ancillary causes of the war, the rise of Hitler, and the development of British, German, and French thinking on the employment of armor. It then goes into the history of the invasion of Poland, the battle for the Low Countries and France, and the reasons why the Germans were able to accomplish such an audacious task (and how tenuous their grip on victory was until Dunkirk).

As I said above, Deighton writes in a logical, accessible style that makes it easy to understand what he's talking about. Those without at least a basic grounding in military technology of the time might feel a little lost at times, but it's nothing that wikipedia can't clear up pretty quickly. His prose flows smoothly from section to section and it's something of an accomplishment that the book doesn't feel more dated.

Deighton is also pretty brutal on all sides. He pulls no punches about the general sheepishness and short-sighted nature of the Allies, nor does he build the Blitzkrieg up to be some miraculous, astounding feat. In many ways he points out that the only reason Blitzkrieg was so astounding was because it ended up working - not necessarily so much by design, but by a combination of luck, enemy incompetence, and daring on the part of the Germans. In some senses, this book is a book with few heroes, and none of the higher up involved come out looking particularly well.

My issues with the book at more with the e-book edition than anything else. The illustrations could have been bigger (though the collection of maps was an excellent addition), and I would have much preferred them to be interspersed in the text than simply lumped at the end. Furthermore, the function that allows you to jump between the end notes and the text did not work when I read it, so I had to do my best guess to figure out where I had been whenever I read an endnote.

Those small quibbles aside, this is a good book for those wanting to know more about the beginning of WWII, and the technology that allowed it to break out of the trench warfare of WWI. At the price, it's hard not to recommend it.

Rigiot

Fans of Len's other books might be disappointed that this one doesn't put the reader in the middle of the action, but as always his meticulous research and objective assessments make this a valuable read. Full marks for making this possibly rather dry subject into a readable and interesting account of events. Len paints a picture of the events that defined the mythology connected with the popular perception of 'blitzkrieg' whilst at the same neatly weaving in his challenges to the popular myths. Although it follows a timeline connected with the period involved, don't expect a story as the landscape is too vast and complex for that to do it justice.

Miromice

Excellent book by an experienced writer of war and spy thrillers, except this one is real. Suggested reading for any fan of the pre, during and post war period of the Second World War.

B     B    

Very good look at events leading up to Dunkirk. Sometimes very technical, which I didn't expect, but welcome. Deighton interviewed people on all fronts that remember what really happened. Love his spy novels. This was an unexpected treat! Should more properly be titled "Tank".

Mysterious Wrench

The book focused on the Blitzkrieg but also of great interest, the author did an excellent accounting of the interest years, especially the history of the integration of the Brown Shirts' integration into the military. The information on these inter-war years included history I had not encountered in my extensive reading on WWII. It's a good addition for even the well-read.

Early Waffle

It s by Len Deighton.

His other books about WWII, such as Bomber are !likewise excellent. Yes, indeed. Mightily Rudy

Deighton is always a reliable read whether fiction or history. This book is a clear readable history of the events surrounding the fall of France in 1940. His analysis of the tactics and weakness of Blitzkrieg is insightful and easy to follow. Clearly, the battle was France's to lose and they managed completely. France had brave soldiers and excellent armour but they were led by fools. Dunkirk is under-reported but perhaps that is another book.

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