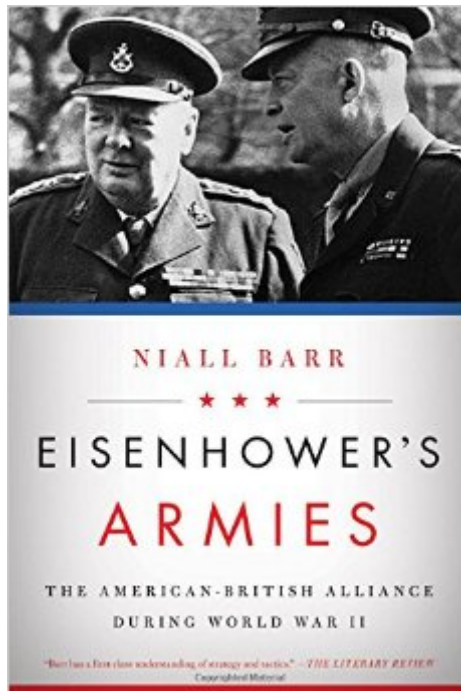


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Eisenhower's Armies: The American-British Alliance During World War II



Synopsis

An authoritative and dramatic behind-the-scenes history of 'the Atlantic Alliance' during World War II. The Anglo-American relationship from 1941-1945 proved to be the most effective military alliance in history. Yet there were also constant tensions and disagreements that threatened to pull the alliance apart. This book highlights why the unprecedented level of cooperation between the very different American and British forces eventually led to victory but also emphasizes the tensions and controversies which inevitably arose. Based on considerable archival research on both sides of the Atlantic, this work considers the breadth and depth of the relationship from high-level strategic decisions, the rivalries and personalities of the commanders to the ordinary British and American soldiers who fought alongside one another. The book also looks back and demonstrates how the legacy of previous experience shaped the decisions of the war. Eisenhower's Armies is the story of two very different armies learning to live, work, and fight together even in the face of serious strategic disagreements. The book is also a very human story about the efforts of many individuals—famous or otherwise—who worked and argued together to defeat Hitler's Germany. In highlighting the cooperation, tensions, and disagreements inherent in this military alliance, this work shows that Allied victory was far from pre-ordained and proves that the business of making this alliance work was vital for eventual success. Thus this dynamic new history provides a fresh perspective on many of the controversies and critical strategic decisions of World War II. As such, this book provides expert analysis of the Anglo-American military alliance as well as new insights into the "special relationship" of the mid-twentieth century. 16 pages of B&W photographs

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Customer Reviews

EISENHOWER'S ARMIES, by English military historian Niall Barr, is not the first historical analysis of Dwight Eisenhower's leadership of the greatest military alliance in world history, nor will it be the last. The coalition that triumphed in World War II was successful for countless reasons. Historians have available to them archival records, oral histories and a vast array of materials from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. They can still find previously undiscovered information that leads to new conclusions and theories regarding the Allied operations. Perhaps that is why each year new books discussing the Second World War are published and read. Ponder for just a moment the incredible cast of world leaders available for study to any historian who writes on the Allies. On the non-military side, Winston Churchill and Franklin Delano Roosevelt are subjects who will be studied for centuries. The military side offers leaders such as George Marshall, Bernard Montgomery, Alan Brooke, George Patton and hundreds more. The man responsible for somehow satisfying all of these personalities and juggling thousands of conflicting views in the air was Dwight David Eisenhower, a Kansan-born graduate of West Point whose pre-World War II military experience was at Camp Colt, a tank training facility near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. EISENHOWER'S ARMIES views the great alliance through the historical lens of the Anglo-American relationship. Barr begins his study with the Revolutionary War when the British and Americans were enemies. The military tension between the two countries continued into the 20th century, and British and American soldiers brought a history of conflict into the World War II alliance.

The depth and breadth of the Anglo-American alliance during the Second World War was unprecedented in history and Niall Barr does an outstanding job of bringing that to light. This is a very well researched and well written story that examines the development and evolution of that alliance looking at both the successes and the problems that had to be overcome. The author examines relationships between the troops and the commanders and presents it all in a very entertaining manner. He is exclusively looking at the military alliance between the US Army and the British Army that began before the US became involved in the war and after the fighting began but that is not where the book begins. He begins with the French and Indian War and proceeds to investigate the evolution of the two armies up to their close working relationship during the Second World War. It is a very interesting narrative. Mr Barr does not focus exclusively on the problems that arose at the higher echelons of command beginning in N Africa and that continued throughout the

war. He goes well beyond that. However, he does illustrate how Eisenhower's genius and ability to remain even-tempered kept the alliance together through the toughest moments. I think he does a very good job of presenting a well-balanced examination of Eisenhower's conduct of the war. He covers Montgomery's considerable shortcomings without completely overlooking his considerable talents. And he covers Simpson's Ninth Army, Simpson's cooperation with the British 21st Army Group and the snag that finally put a sour taste for the Brits in Simpson's mouth; something that is hard to find in a World War II book. But, as I think back on his story, I think Mr Barr demonstrates that there was much more cooperation than acrimony.

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