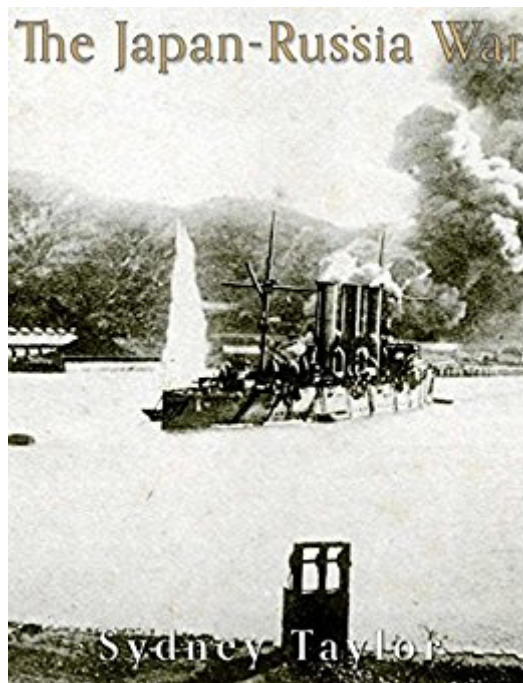


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The Japan-Russia War



Synopsis

The Japan-Russia War is a history of the Russo-Japanese War.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Japan-Russia War by Sydney Tyler is a book that must be graded on a curve since it was written in 1905. It is not only written in the style of the time, it was written not long after the end of the war and didn't have the benefit of documentation and information that would come later. Tyler tells the story of the Japan-Russia War (now known as the Russo-Japanese War), giving a good description of the causes of the war, the naval battles, and the land battles. Unfortunately, he blows through the diplomacy that ended the war; most of the final chapter consists of the text of the Treaty of Portsmouth, which ended the war. It is both informative and entertaining; despite the older style of writing and vocabulary I still found it easy to read and follow. The battles are well described and seem to be well analyzed. As a History geek, I found it interesting to read a book in which the battles were compared to those from wars such as the American Civil War, Boer Wars, and the Franco-Prussian War. One big problem with The Japan-Russia War is its lack of objectivity; the author is clearly biased toward Japan, early on it's almost over the top. With that in mind, a lot of his criticism of the Russians is warranted because the Japanese were better prepared and performed to a higher level than the Russians. Maps are an issue in this book, but mainly because they are the

original 1905 maps; since a lot of the geography of Korea and Manchuria where the battles occurred won't be familiar to most readers, it would probably be a good idea to have an atlas or Google Maps handy when reading. The Japan-Russia War gets you thinking about wars that were to come. It really gives you an idea of how warfare was developing as World War I approached. You can see in the land battles between Russia and Japan the seeds of how World War I battles would be. You also get foreshadowing of the World War I naval war in the naval battles off of Port Arthur and at Tsushima. Looking ahead at World War II, you wonder how the Allies maintained contempt for Japan's military abilities. The Japanese were clearly more prepared for the war, their leadership was better, and they performed brilliantly on both land and sea. There are parallels that can be seen between Port Arthur and Pearl Harbor. At the same time, given how the Russians performed during the war, you can see how the Japanese developed a superiority complex toward Western militaries. The Japan-Russia War has issues, but overall it really is worth reading if you're interested in the Russo-Japanese War and how warfare developed leading into World War I. If it were written in the modern day, I wouldn't rate it high, but considering when it was written I'm giving it four stars. There aren't many books on the subject and this one definitely expanded my knowledge of the war.

excellent book.

Great book; interesting read.

This history was written over a hundred years ago, but never the less it is a very good overview of the Russo-Japanese War, or as they called it back then I guess the Japan-Russia War. The author uses an interesting narrative style and covers the important events of the war without getting bogged down in too much data. There are plenty of maps which is good but they are a bit hard to see in detail. For a quick understanding of the war this is a very good book.

Written at the close of the war in 1905, this book provides an insight as to how the war was perceived at the time as the most significant modern conflict since the Napoleonic era. The two empires together put more than a million in the field and upon the seas with the most modern weaponry (machine guns, long range artillery and the most modern naval forces) of the period. Composed almost a decade before the horrors of the First World War demonstrated in even greater detail the lessons unlearned from this Russo-Japanese conflict, this work provides a comprehensive view of early twentieth century warfare with command of the sea (e.g. Battle of Tsushima), the

heavy dependence of modern armies on logistics (railroads and naval supply), communications (phone and radio), trench warfare (with machine guns and heavy artillery support), modern siege warfare (Port Arthur), modern medical support (for perhaps the first time more soldiers (Japanese) died in combat rather than from disease) and the international diplomatic concerns of the era (e.g., The Dogger Bank incident which threatened to bring in Great Britain against Russia as treaty ally of the Japanese which perhaps would have made this the first twentieth century world war). The author shows a strong bias favoring the emergent Japanese nation, but attempts to balance this with a respect for the admirable military qualities of the Russian soldiers and sailors, who were often failed by their leadership and by difficulties inherent in the Tsarist regime's organization and perspective. I read this as a Kindle edition and my only real beef is that the maps and illustrations are not scale-able, but then the paper edition wouldn't be either. There are quite a few maps which can easily be supplemented with a Google search for more detail. All in all, a unique perspective reflective of the times.

This is a toughie for several reasons. To wit: 1) It is written in the 19th century style 2) It is written by a Brit with (at that time) unfailing jingoistic support and praise of Japan (a major customer of British Shipyards) 3) It covers (with early limitations) battles that cover geography utterly unfamiliar with a Western Audience (Past the Chosin Defile nothing is studied, or taught, of the terrain where the titanic battles in the book took place). 4) The sea battles are covered, but, again, with a strong Japanese bent. ---OK, That said, there are some critical things that can be learned from this book: 1) The Japanese pulled off a "sneak attack" on Port Arthur similar to the one at Pearl Harbor some 46 years later. 2) Hidden in the text is the architect of the Pearl Harbor Attack (find him, you will as he was wounded at Tsushima)! 3) The massive infantry attacks against emplaced artillery & infantry trenches presages the Western Front in WW1 by 10 years. 4) The disastrous defeat of the Russian fleets & army corps almost toppled the Czarist Regime (not mentioned in the book). 5) Also, not said: The Japanese were utterly PO'd by their defeat at the negotiation table at the end of the war. ---So, if you want a presage of the reasons that things were *ugly* in Korea & China as the Japanese Government began its drive towards WW2, Then this is the book to read.

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