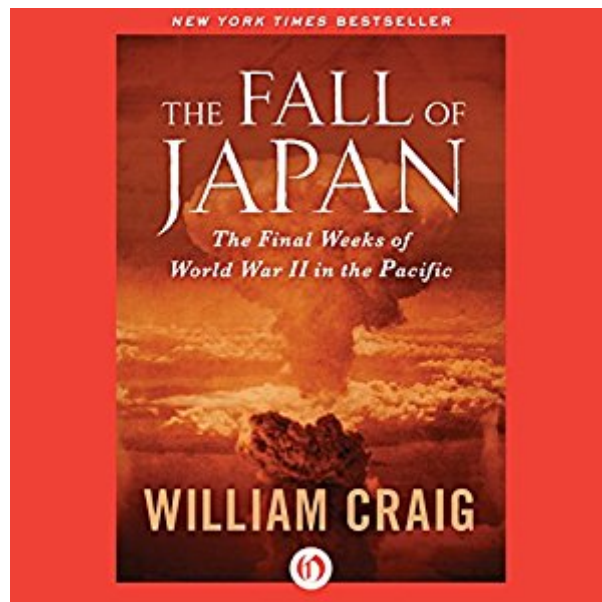


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The Fall Of Japan



Synopsis

Told from both Japanese and American perspectives, this thrilling account of the final weeks of World War II in the Pacific has been heralded by the New York Times Book Review as "virtually faultless". By midsummer 1945, Japan had long since lost the war in the Pacific. The people were not told the truth, and neither was the emperor. Japanese generals, admirals, and statesmen knew, but only a handful of leaders were willing to accept defeat. Most were bent on fighting the Allies until the last Japanese soldier died and the last city burned to the ground. Exhaustively researched and vividly told, *The Fall of Japan* masterfully chronicles the dramatic events that brought an end to the Pacific War and forced a once-mighty military nation to surrender unconditionally. From the ferocious fighting on Okinawa to the all-but-impossible mission to drop the second atom bomb, and from Franklin D. Roosevelt's White House to the Tokyo bunker where tearful Japanese leaders first told the emperor the truth, William Craig captures the pivotal events of the war with spellbinding authority. *The Fall of Japan* brings to life both celebrated and lesser-known historical figures, including Admiral Takijiro Onishi, the brash commander who drew up the Yamamoto plan for the attack on Pearl Harbor and inspired the death cult of kamikaze pilots. This astonishing account ranks alongside Cornelius Ryan's *The Longest Day* and John Toland's *The Rising Sun* as a masterpiece of World War II history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The last few days of Japan's WWII regime are a fascinating topic. The very thought of surrender was so hard to fathom that many Japanese leaders tried to convince themselves that making

the last stand • would at least gain better surrender terms. Even after seeing the damage done at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it required quite an effort, and at personal risk, for the peace bloc • to make the idea of surrender a reality.=== The Good Stuff ===* William Craig does a great job of capturing the emotions, motivations and strategies of the key players in Japan's final days. The author provides a look at the maneuvering and political tactics that were required to isolate and marginalize that last remaining fanatics inside the Japanese government. Craig writes in an easy-to-read style, and he explains his points well enough so that even the more casual reader can understand the machinations that occurred.* I have read other books on this subject, and there was enough new information and analysis presented to make this a worthwhile read. For example, I had previously read of the fanatics • who wanted to prolong the war at any price, but hadn't realized how close Japan came to a military coup during those last days. Nor did I understand just how much of a personal risk the leaders of the peace faction • took in opposing the hard-liners. Many of them expected to be assassinated before they could complete the surrender.* Craig dives deeply into a few of the key characters. For example, the Japanese War Minister, General Anami is shown struggling through his final days. On one hand, he is loyal to the Emperor, who had advised the government to accept surrender in line with the terms of the Potsdam proclamation.

This is a must read for our present day apologists beating their breasts, rending their garments and plucking out their beards over our bombing of Japan at the end of WWII. It has long been my contention that without the atomic bomb the following scenario would have taken place: Japan would not have accepted our surrender terms. Russia would have invaded Hokkaido just after the other allied forces invaded Kyushu. Because Japan had been expecting an invasion of Kyushu, most of their defenses would have been concentrated on that island and the attack via Hokkaido would have caught them unprepared in that quarter. The Hokkaido terrain would have lent itself to the Russian style of fighting and Russian forces would have as quickly overwhelmed the Japanese defense of that island as they did the forces in Manchuria. Russia would have then invaded Honshu while the other allied forces were slugging it out in a death struggle that would have made Okinawa look like a Sunday school picnic. Russian forces could well have reached Tokyo and further south on Honshu. Eventually Japan would have managed to swing enough forces away from the U.S. advance to slow the Russian advance. When enough of Japan and the Japanese population was destroyed so that organized resistance was finally overcome, the islands would have been divided much as Germany was. As a result of the incredible loss of life we would have sustained, we would have abandoned all interest in the Far East, Taiwan would be part of Communist China, the whole

of the Korean Peninsula would be communist under the fat little guy in Pongyang and we would still be trying to wipe out small bands of resistance on the Japanese mainland as well as armed camps in other portions of the Far East from Japanese troops that had been bypassed on our march to Japan.

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