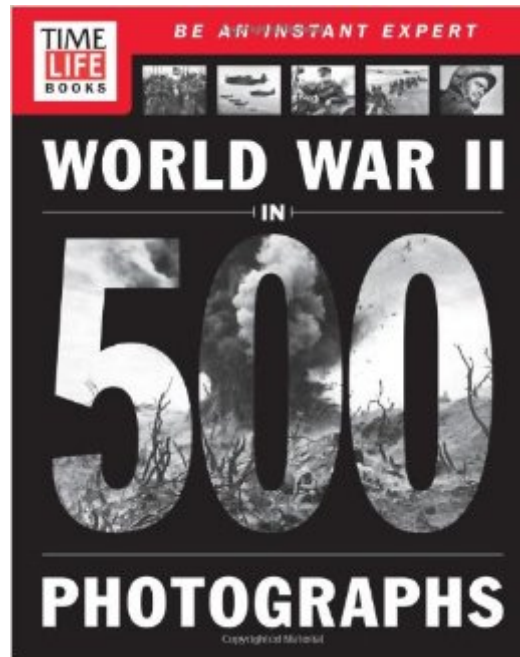


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# TIME-LIFE World War II In 500 Photographs



## Synopsis

World War II, fought from 1939 to 1945, engulfed the globe in a shattering struggle over national sovereignty and individual rights. It was also the costliest battle in history in terms of human life, with millions perishing in combat, in concentration camps, and under the rubble of crushed cities. This gripping and epic battle is brought powerfully to life on every page of Time-Life Books' World War II in 500 Photographs. Inside, you'll find: Key events, battles, and turning points, year by year Profiles of the war's leaders, heroes, and enemies Memorable quotations and firsthand accounts Color maps and photo timelines From the Nazis' early rise to power to Victory over Japan Day, this essential guide brings you to the front lines of the war that changed our world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It's been some time since I've seen a new WW II photo-history so the arrival of Time Life Books' WORLD WAR II IN 500 PHOTOGRAPHS was appreciated. A 2014 release, it's a nicely-done visual guide to the Second World War. I have my doubts that reading the book will make the reader "An Instant Expert," as the cover claims, but it's worth a look. Arranged chronologically, a short, introductory chapter covers events from 1919 to 1939 then launches into: '1939: Outbreak of War in Europe;' '1940: War Across the Continents;' '1941: War to the East and West;' etc. The photographs are a combination of b&w and color pix. Some are candid; most are official government or commercial agency snaps. Many of them will be familiar to serious military history buffs. The book's photo time-lines are a plus. Color maps are also included. The accompanying text reads like TIME Magazine articles, informative but bland and superficial. Sidebars on prominent leaders and select

topics are interwoven with the narrative. As photo-histories go, *WORLD WAR II IN 500 PHOTOGRAPHS* isn't bad. It brings together a good collection of images that capture that titanic conflict in all its vividness. I would have liked a more knowledgeable, involving narrative but at \$17.95 retail, what the heck! Recommended.

With literally tons of books about WW2 overflowing everywhere, this one is - amazingly - still relevant and almost surprising in its clever use of photos. Bravo TIME!!! I'd like to write a much longer review on my travel blog, but can't seem to locate THE person at TIME (in PR?) to contact.

At least one major gap in this history puts it in the 'just-so-so' category for me. There is absolutely no mention of one of the named WWII theatres; the China-Burma-India theatre. Those airmen and crews who 'flew the Hump' over the Himalayas and who built the Burma Road in support of US Chinese allies deserve at least one page and a couple of photographs; their efforts to thwart the Japanese were crucial. Also, there was quite a bit of post-WWII content, which 1] doesn't exactly fit the book's title and 2] could merit another book of its own in this series. The space retrieved from cutting out yet one more page of generals' and politicians' posed photos could easily have been put to use highlighting some of the more esoteric aspects of the war efforts. While the code-breakers and the code-talkers were included, for example, many other special groups -- such as the 'monument men' and the teams who created deceptive Potemkin-like military units or those who piloted gliders behind the lines or Russian snipers -- are completely ignored. There are more iconic photos in the public arena, and so it's good to see some less well-known ones published in this book. However, the caliber of many of them, especially those of the Russian front, are certainly not journalistic quality. For me, the best ones are those candid shots that illustrate the interaction and humanity of those people undergoing this huge event. There must be better photos in the archives somewhere. The book's cover suggests the reader can become an 'instant expert.' While there may be new tidbits for people who know the history of WWII, expertise will not be an outcome of having read this book. At most, a reader with no knowledge of WWII may emerge with a basic high-school-level of understanding.

this was a gift for my husband who loved it!!! and he's got pretty much every WWII item imaginable. he particularly enjoyed the facts presented in this book as well as the photos. i couldnt be happier as he's a hard person to shop for and this was a major win in his book- yay! i also bought one for my father-in-law. i can't wait to see his reaction too!

I bought this for my dad's birthday aa he collects all things war related. I'm happy to report he has proudly displayed it on his coffee table and looks at it often. It turned out to be the perfect gift!

Yes, this is a quick, breezy, and far from complete summation of World War II, but it's meant to be a synopsis, not an exhaustive study of the war. Iconic photos that one associates with WWII (flag raising at Iwo Jima, or sailor kissing nurse at Times Square) are a part of the photographic history of the war that is included in this book, but so too are many other photos, some utterly heartbreaking or chilling. I think what I liked best about this book is the inclusion of battles on the Eastern European front that aren't mentioned too often in history books taught in Western schools. Understandably, countries in the West would focus mostly on battles in which their own countries (the U.S. for example) had an extensive role. Thus, it was enlightening to read about the Battle of Kursk, or the Siege of Leningrad. Again, because this book was not meant to be an all-encompassing summation of the war, anyone who wants to read detailed histories of any part mentioned in the book can do so elsewhere. Finally, in a surprise, I assumed all photos would be exclusively in black and white, but surprisingly, there were a few color photos included in the book.

Sorry. I loved the former Life magazine and bought what I thought was a pictorial history of WWII with captions. What I got was photos that were of very poor quality, not expandable and a lot of unwanted text. I have tried three times to read this book and have given up in exasperation each time. It will remain unread.

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