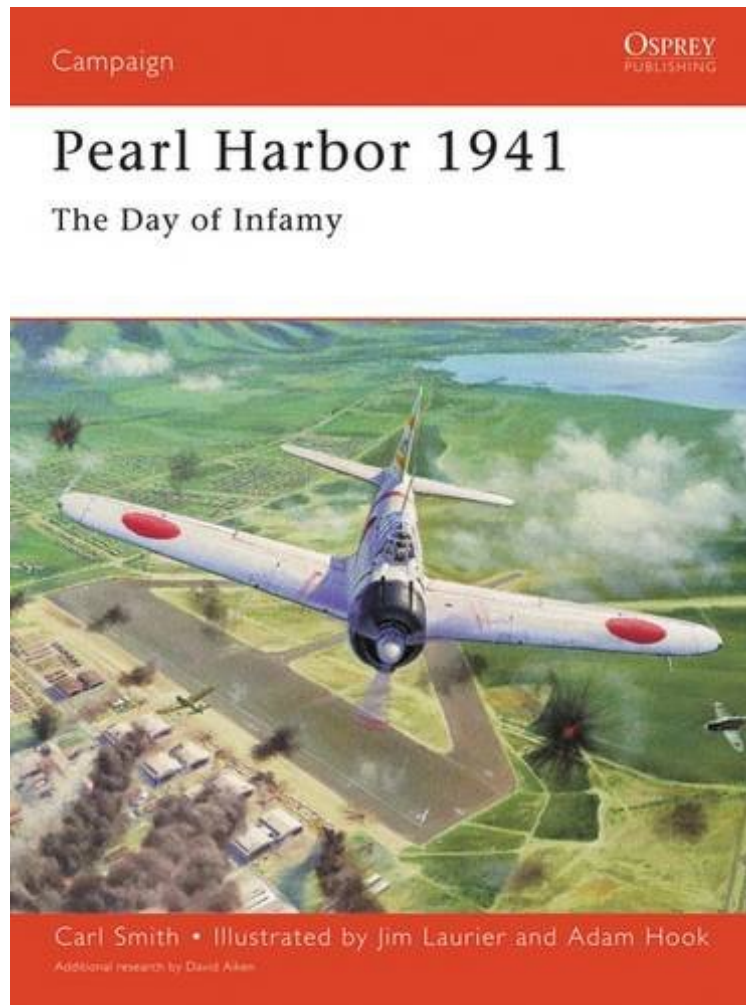


(Download pdf) Pearl Harbor 1941: The day of infamy (Campaign)

## Pearl Harbor 1941: The day of infamy (Campaign)

*Carl Smith*

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#1183415 in Books Campaign Series - World War II - Pacific Asian 2001-09-25 2001-09-25Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 250.19 x 6.73 x 7.27l, #File Name: 184176390X96 pages9781841763903 | File size: 15.Mb

**Carl Smith : Pearl Harbor 1941: The day of infamy (Campaign)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pearl Harbor 1941: The day of infamy (Campaign):

18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. A Decent, if Flawed SummaryBy R. A ForczykPearl Harbor 1941 is graphically very appealing. If one ignores the first 35 pages and the final few pages, one might even call this an excellent summary. For readers with only a general interest in the Pearl Harbor attack, this volume will suffice, but historians will probably only appreciate the excellent maps and order of battle information. Particularly troubling, given the immense primary and secondary sources available on this subject, is the author's tendency toward misleading and erroneous facts. The opening introduction and background section is totally inadequate. While the author takes time to mention Hawaii's historical background, he makes less effort to paint the immediate causes of the attack. There

is no mention of either the Chinese invasion of China in 1937 that led to the deterioration of US-Japanese relations or the Russo-Japanese border fighting in 1939-40 that shaped Japanese strategic conceptions away from further Eurasian entanglements. The statement that the "US Pacific Fleet was a deterrent" is misleading; that was how FDR viewed it, not the Japanese, who saw it as a threat to their expansionist ambitions in the Pacific. Even Admiral Kimmel, who commanded the Pacific Fleet, felt wholesale transfers of men and vessels to the Atlantic undermined its deterrence value. The section on opposing commanders is more than a bit rambling and has odd choices of individuals, some of whom were not military commanders involved directly in the campaign. The US section has Kimmel, Short, Stark, Marshall, Hull and FDR. The Japanese section has Yamamoto, Fuchida, Genda, Nagumo and Nomura. Certainly politicians and diplomats such as FDR, Hull and Nomura do not belong here. Noticeably absent are the US air commanders in Hawaii, Bloch and Martin, who certainly bore some responsibility for the defeat. The entry for Nagumo is misleading, implying that he committed suicide at Saigon in 1944 "when the inevitable result of the war became clear." Instead, Nagumo was commander of the naval base on Saipan and committed suicide when US troops overran the island. The entry for Yamamoto that claims he was, "a man who fought but wanted peace" is nauseating. Just what did he ever do for peace? The chronology section, although detailed, is also marked with misleading or erroneous entries, further complicated by the fact that the author does not specify what time zone he is using. For example, he states that the Japanese fleet sailed on 25 November, but local time was actually 26 November. The crucial 27 November "war warning" is falsely delivered as advising Kimmel and Short that negotiations had failed and to "be prepared for any eventuality." It said no such thing. Although there is a section on the Japanese attack plan, there is no section on US defensive plans or the Rainbow War Plan. The author should have mentioned the Martin-Bellinger studied which addressed the vulnerability of Oahu to air attack. In the Japanese section, there is no mention of the vociferous opposition to the raid and how Yamamoto had to threaten resigning in order to get the operation approved. The whole approach to Japan's strategy is euphemistic: "Japan expanded into Asia..." and the US "thwarted every Japanese attempt to extend Asian influence," instead of, the US sought to contain Japanese aggression. There are many other errors in this section, some so mundane, like claiming that the Japanese task force sailed from "Tankan Bay" instead of Hittokappu bay, that it is a wonder that the author even bothered to peruse secondary sources. Amazingly, the sections on the actual attack are quite good. To be fair, they are better than Gordon Prange provides in his long-winded *At Dawn We Slept*. Smith provides excellent maps and graphics for the attacks on each air base and the naval facilities, as well as a decent textual summary. Three-D maps are provided for the first and second wave attacks, as well as the attack on Hickam Field. There is even a map depicting US naval movements in Pearl during the attack, which is most unusual. Several excellent illustrations and many photos complement the text. Overall, these 36 pages that cover the attack (one more page than Prange) are excellent. Unfortunately, in the aftermath section the author reverts to his misleading tendencies. He claims "all eight [US] battleships [were] sunk or heavily damaged," which is totally wrong. The USS Maryland and Pennsylvania were only slightly damaged and soon available for service, USS Tennessee was moderately damaged. His follow-up conclusions are overly generalized and ignore the immediate affects of the raid. Overall, this a handy, colorful summary volume, but it should not be used as a substitute for serious history. Unfortunately, the author has taken far too many liberties with the historical record for this to be considered a reliable summary.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By Jerry Gunderson  
New Vanguard is a Great Series of historical data.  
0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great guide to an important event in history.  
By L. Ford Ballard, Jr.  
This Osprey series is a really great help in keeping some of these extremely complex historical/military events under control. The Illustrations and write up are direct, easy to understand and helpful when reading way more complex books. I am loving the Pearl Harbor book and so looking for the Midway book to arrive.

December 7, 1941 was one of the single most decisive days of World War II (1939-1945) - the day that brought the USA into the fight. Six Japanese aircraft carriers disgorged their full complements in two waves on the superior US Pacific Fleet as it lay slumbering in Pearl Harbor. Depending on opposing viewpoints, the attack was either a brilliant maneuver of audacious strategy, or a piece of unparalleled villainy and deception by a supposedly friendly power. This revised edition, containing the latest research on the events of December 7, 1941, reveals several previously unknown aspects of the attack and dispels key myths that have been built up around the fateful day - a day, as Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared, that would "live in infamy".

From Booklist  
This slim but informative and visually attractive overview-summary of that horrible day in December 1941 is just one volume in the Praeger Illustrated Military History series, which will eventually include more than 100 titles; the first "batch" comprises 34 volumes covering battles in World War I and World War II. Subsequent volumes will include coverage of the American Civil War, the ancient world, and the Napoleonic Wars. The format will be the same in each volume: cogent discussion of commanders, makeup of the opposing forces, actual maneuvers on the battlefield, results, and the battlefield as it looks today; the target audience for each volume is the general reader who wants basic information on consequential battles throughout history. The entire series would, of course, make a

marvelously comprehensive addition to a public or school library's history collection, but the librarian may find that a more realistic approach would be to order the volumes most relevant to one's specific collection and readership needs--and, certainly, the individual volumes can either stand alone or alongside a few select series mates. For more information on individual titles, visit the publisher's Web site at [www.praeger.com](http://www.praeger.com). Brad Hooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved. [a] marvelously comprehensive addition to a public or school library's history collection.]-Booklist From the Publisher Highly visual guides to history's greatest conflicts, detailing the command strategies, tactics, and experiences of the opposing forces throughout each campaign, and concluding with a guide to the battlefields today.