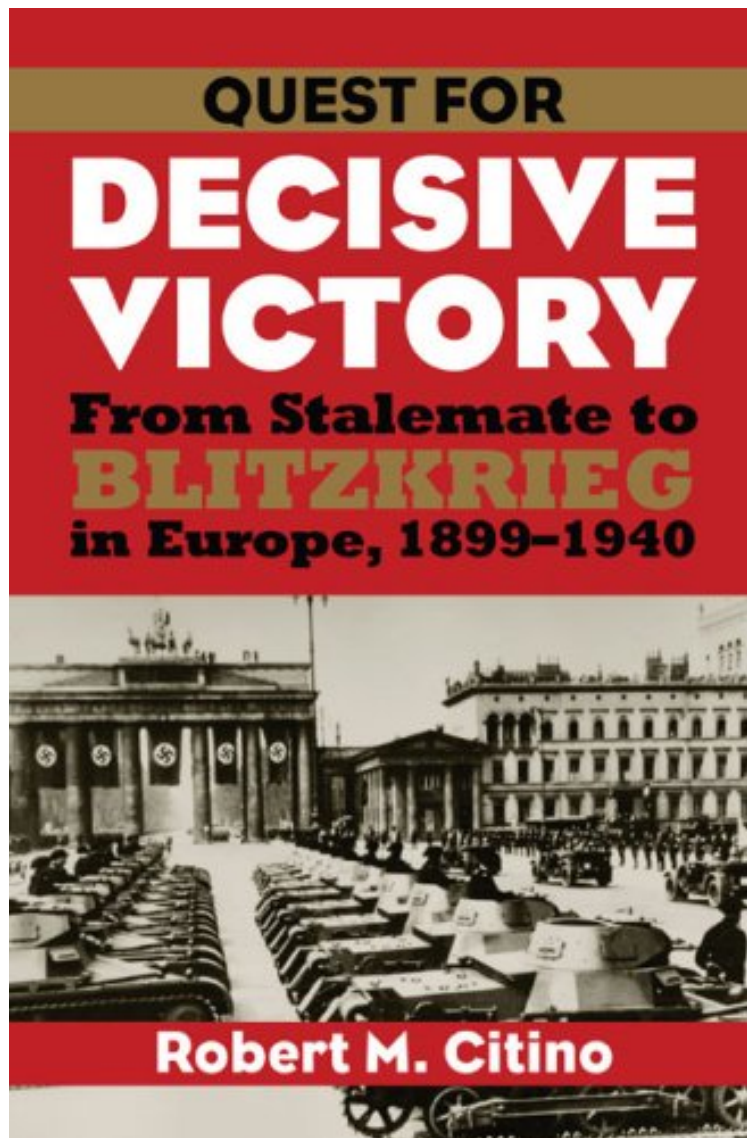


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Quest for Decisive Victory: From Stalemate to Blitzkrieg in Europe, 1899-1940 (Modern War Studies (Paperback))

Robert M. Citino

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Robert M. Citino : Quest for Decisive Victory: From Stalemate to Blitzkrieg in Europe, 1899-1940 (Modern War Studies (Paperback)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Quest for Decisive Victory: From Stalemate to Blitzkrieg in Europe, 1899-1940 (Modern War Studies (Paperback)):

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Quest for a solution
By Richard Peterson
Robert Citino starts with a problem: from the middle of the 19th century, decisive battles, so common in the Napoleonic Wars, suddenly disappear. Although battles were still fought and won, they became increasingly sterile, deciding little. He shows that this had more to do with command, control and communication (C3) than increasing firepower or any imagined superiority of defense over attack. He then takes us through the campaigns of the early 20th century to see how the problem (and solutions) evolved. In the process, he gives us excellent operational histories of many little-known wars, such as the Russo-Japanese (1904-05) and Balkan (1912-13) wars, as well World War I. This alone would make the book a "must-buy" for me. However, this is just a way to his goal of showing how battles once again became "decisive". His discussion of the inter-war period, which has been analyzed ad nauseum, still finds some new things to say. In particular, he shows how the radio was more important than the tank to Blitzkrieg. He winds up with the opening battles of world war 2, where mobility and decisiveness were restored to the battlefield.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very Readable and authorized work
By Miguel A. Agreda Gamarra
This book offer a very interesting work, (as Mr. Citino has offered before)with an added "plus" of readability that makes a Scholar book as an interesting Novel. Highly recommended.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Another Hit for Dr. Citino
By Brent M. Zarza
Dr Citino's newest book is a must read for anyone interested in expanding their knowledge of modern military history. I anticipated this books publication for over a year and was not disappointed. The focus of the Quest For Decisive Victory is the evolution of tactics and strategy to deal with the innovations in technology and the changing battlefield. From the rise of the "invisible battlefield" due to smokeless powder in the Boer War to the simple introduction of the wireless radio set to the tank intended as a replacement for hand flags as the main form of communication among tank commanders , a weapon system or technical innovation is only as good as the commanding Generals understanding of its capabilities and how best to employ it in war. Dr. Citino Traces this process from 1899-1940 showing how the static stalemate of war first appearing in the Boer War and the Russo Japanese war was finally overcome by the "War of Movement" as practiced and envisioned by Guderian, Rommel, Fuller, and Von Seckt.

Since the earliest days of warfare, military operations have followed a predictable formula: after a decisive battle, an army must pursue the enemy and destroy its organization in order to achieve a victorious campaign. But by the mid-nineteenth century, the emergence of massive armies and advanced weaponry—and the concomitant decline in the effectiveness of cavalry—had diminished the practicality of pursuit, producing campaigns that bogged down short of decisive victory. Great battles had become curiously indecisive, decisive campaigns virtually impossible. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the inability to achieve decisive victories in warfare had become the single greatest military problem facing modern armies. Robert Citino now tells how European military leaders analyzed and eventually overcame this problem by restoring pursuit to its rightful place in combat and resurrecting the possibility of decisive warfare on the operational level. Quest for Decisive Victory chronicles the evolution of European warfare during the first half of the twentieth century. A study of war at the operational level, it demonstrates the interplay and tension between technology and doctrine in warfare and reveals how problems surrounding mobility—including such factors as supply lines, command and control, and prewar campaign planning—forced armies to find new ways of fighting. Citino focuses on key campaigns of both major and minor conflicts. Minor wars before 1914 (Boer, Russo-Japanese, and the Balkan Wars of 1912-13) featured instructive examples of operational maneuver; the First World War witnessed the collapse of operations and the rise of attrition warfare; the Italo-Ethiopian and Spanish Civil Wars held some promise for breaking out of stalemate by incorporating such innovations as air and tank warfare. Ultimately, it was Germany's opening blitzkrieg of World War II that resurrected the decisive campaign as an operational possibility. By grafting new technologies—tanks, aircraft, and radio—onto a long tradition of maneuver warfare, the Wehrmacht won decisive victories in the first year of the war and in the process transformed modern military doctrine. Citino's study is important for shifting the focus from military theory and doctrine to detailed operational analyses of actual campaigns that formed the basis for the revival of military doctrine. Quest for Decisive Victory gives scholars of military history a better grasp of that elusive concept and a more complete understanding of modern warfare.

"An excellent and important contribution to our understanding of twentieth-century Western warfare. Citino's narrative skill and insightful analysis of military battles, operations, and campaigns are especially strong. . . . Should have broad appeal."—James S. Corum, author of *The Roots of Blitzkrieg* and *The Luftwaffe* "Citino's provocative work—with its broad-spectrum coverage and unique time frame—makes a strong case for a continuity of thought and action from the turn of the century to 1940. . . . A fine work from a master scholar."—Dennis E. Showalter, author of *Tannenberg: Clash of Empires* "A fascinating and challenging book that should be welcomed and applauded by twentieth-century military historians." "An erudite summary of some of history's most complex military campaigns. . . . Highly recommended for all readers and all collections."