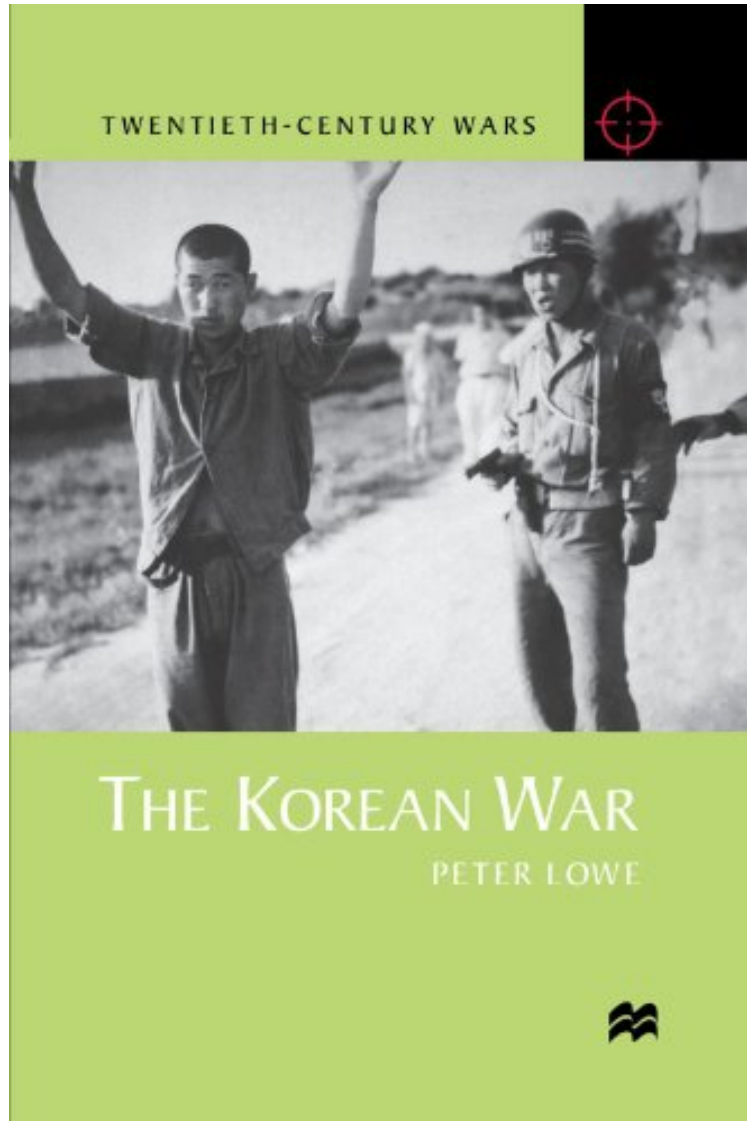


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The Korean War (Twentieth Century Wars)

Peter Lowe

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#2584579 in Books 2000-08-05Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .33 x 5.50l, .47 #File Name: 0312233043150 pages | File size: 54.Mb

Peter Lowe : The Korean War (Twentieth Century Wars) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Korean War (Twentieth Century Wars):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Quite good, if you're mostly interested in diplomacyBy PolymathThis book is essentially a diplomatic history of the war, including before, and a little after the fighting. After finishing reading the book, I checked back and judged that fewer than a dozen pages (less than ten percent of the book) discussed actual military operations. For example, Task Force Smith is not even mentioned, and the Inchon landing is

covered in a couple of sentences. Similarly with the UN retreat after the Chinese intervention--from the book, I hardly knew it happened. Since I've read several books on the Korean War, I could fill in the blanks on the military moves, and I did learn much new about the diplomatic and political environment of the times. However, this book is in a series about 20th Century WARS, and I feel wars are more than just ten percent about fighting. Other books in the series certainly spend more time on combat. So my judgment is, if you want a good, brief introduction to the diplomatic background of the Korean War, get this book; if you want to learn something at all in depth about the military moves, you will need to get another book as well.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Amazingly fine book despite being so short

By Karl G. Larew

It's good to see the war from a British perspective. Content and style are superb. It is amazing that Lowe can pack so much information and depth of insight into such a small book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Useful for a few statistics, but the quality of scholarship is poor.

By Zachary Endter

The book lazily misinterprets information to draw grandiose conclusions. For instance, Lowe claims that NSC-68 would have made Stalin aware of the US' likely reaction to North Korean encroachments, but it was not approved by Truman until after the Korean War began. Lowe ridiculously claims that the servicing of Korean airplanes a month before invasion indicates a lack of cooperation between Stalin and Kim Il Sung. How does he logically go from A to B? The world might never know.

This volume reassesses the origins, nature, and aftermath of the war which was fought in the Korean peninsula between 1950 and 1953. Attention is focused particularly on the extraordinary first year of the war, which witnessed profound variations in the fortune of both sides. This included the initial North Korean attack, the counter-offensive launched by the United States Command, China's dramatic entry into the war, the retreat of UN forces, the controversy over the conduct and dismissal of General MacArthur, and the decision to commence armistice negotiations.

'Useful as a basic text which also provides a clear line into the historiography of the topic.' - David Killingray, Goldsmiths College

'Well-organised and thorough coverage.' - Curtis Andressen, Flinders University

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About the Author

Peter Lowe is Reader in History at the University of Manchester.