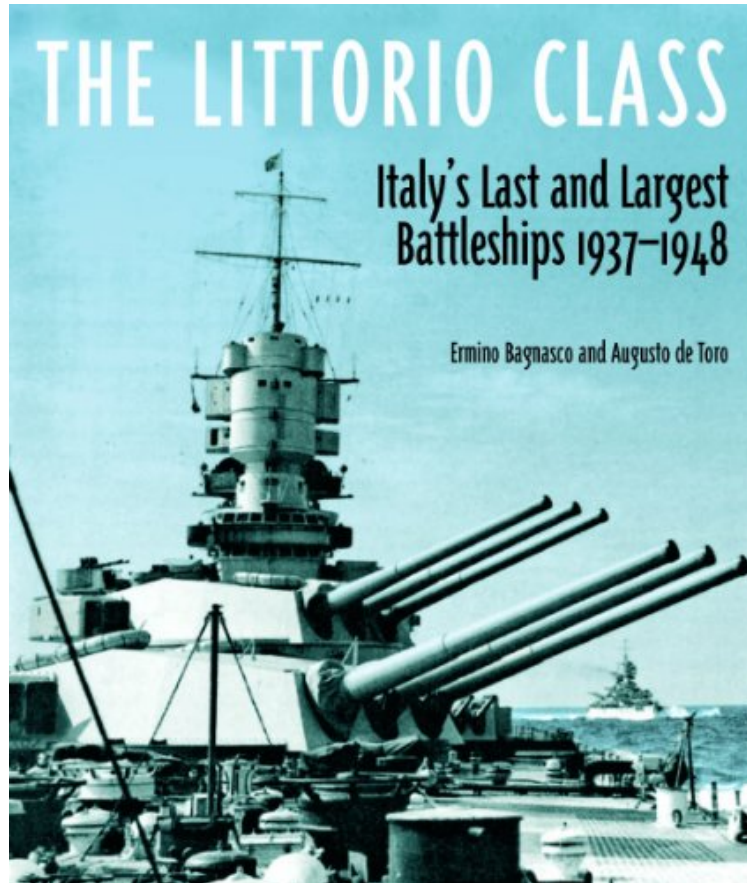


(Download) The Littorio Class: Italy's Last and Largest Battleships 1937-1948

The Littorio Class: Italy's Last and Largest Battleships 1937-1948

Erminio Bagnasco, Augusto de Toro
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Erminio Bagnasco, Augusto de Toro : The Littorio Class: Italy's Last and Largest Battleships 1937-1948 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Littorio Class: Italy's Last and Largest Battleships 1937-1948:

27 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Definitive book on the Littorio class By Mark Hinds This book covers the Italian Littorio class battleships, in detail. It appears to be an English translation of the 2010 book "Le Navi da Battaglia Classe Littorio 1937-1948", second edition, by Bagnasco De Toro. It is organized into 6 major chapters entitled "Battleships and Italian Naval Policy between the two World Wars", "Design and General Characteristics", "Technical Description", "Construction, Sea Trials and Commissioning", "Operational History", and "Comparisons and Conclusions". Appendices include a listing of operational movements and locations, detailed evaluations of each incident of battle damage, and gunnery details. The book is extensively illustrated with occasionally grainy, but frequently unusual photographs, extensive sketches and line drawings, and contains a section of small-scale plans and color/camouflage images. The book is a gold mine of detail. Some examples of this include cut-away drawings of turret layouts, ammunition stowage and armor placement plans, and detailed discussion of topics such as the Pugliese

underwater protection system and the "composite"-construction side armored belt. The book also contains quite a bit of objective-sounding discussion of the pros and cons of these various design elements, and of their performance in comparison with equivalent elements in contemporary battleships of other nations. Physical quality is quite good. I recommend this book. MH1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excelent book By Otavio Maia Chelotti I thoroughly second all the favourable reviews of this book. It offers a pretty complete discussion not only of the technical details of the ships, but also of their tactical (mis)employment including their afterwar fates. It also attempts to compare the class with their contemporaries, arguing in the process, that they were much better than it is usually assumed and performed pretty well. Especially interesting is the discussion of the steering system, which, in a fascinating "what-if" scenario, would probably have saved the Bismarck. As an aside, the tactical part is full of interesting insights into real-life operational problems of the Italian Navy in World War II, from the well-known problems of coordination with air operations in reconnaissance operations and the ineffectiveness of bombing until torpedo techniques were used to the -for me the most interesting idea in the book, but one which I would not be able to comment on due to lack of knowledge- proposition that the lack of aggressiveness of the Italian Navy was due in no small measure to the application of the concept of "fleet-in-being", in which the perceived need to preserve the fleet had a priority over actually entering combat. Add to this the psychological advantage the British held after Taranto, and the result was the rather lacklustre combat record of Italy's major surface units (the smaller ones saw plenty of it, and can be said to have acquitted themselves honorably, in view of their technological disadvantages viz. radar and night-fighting). Highly recommended to people interested in WW II ships' technical details and naval operations, above all in the Mediterranean, as well as hobby modellists. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Mongraph Done Right By Michael Dunham An individual ship monograph, or class monograph, should feature development, construction, intended usage, and actual deployment(s), as well as the fate of the described vessels. I also want to see detailed, accurate plans, and color profiles. This book has them all, and done beautifully. I had no particular interest in the Littorio Class of battleships, but I was thrilled by the excellence of the work throughout. I hope Bagnasco and De Toro will exercise their skills on more similar subjects in the future, as there is so much to be gained from their work.

For its final battleship design Italy ignored all treaty restrictions on tonnage, and produced one of Europe's largest and most powerful capital ships, comparable with Germany's Bismarck class which were also built in defiance of international agreements. The three ships of the Littorio class were fast and elegant, but also boasted a revolutionary protective scheme which was tested to the limits, as all three were heavily damaged in the hard-fought naval war in the Mediterranean. The book combines a detailed analysis of the design with an operational history, evaluating how the ships stood up to combat. It is illustrated with an amazing collection of photographs, detailed plans, and colored artwork of camouflage schemes, adding up to as complete a study of this class of battleship ever published.

This is a very impressive piece of work, one of the best monographs on a single type of warship that i have ever read and comes highly recommended. - History of War About the Author Ermino Bagnasco is the editor of Storia Militare, Italy's leading military journal. Augusto De Toro is a member of the staff of Storia Militare.