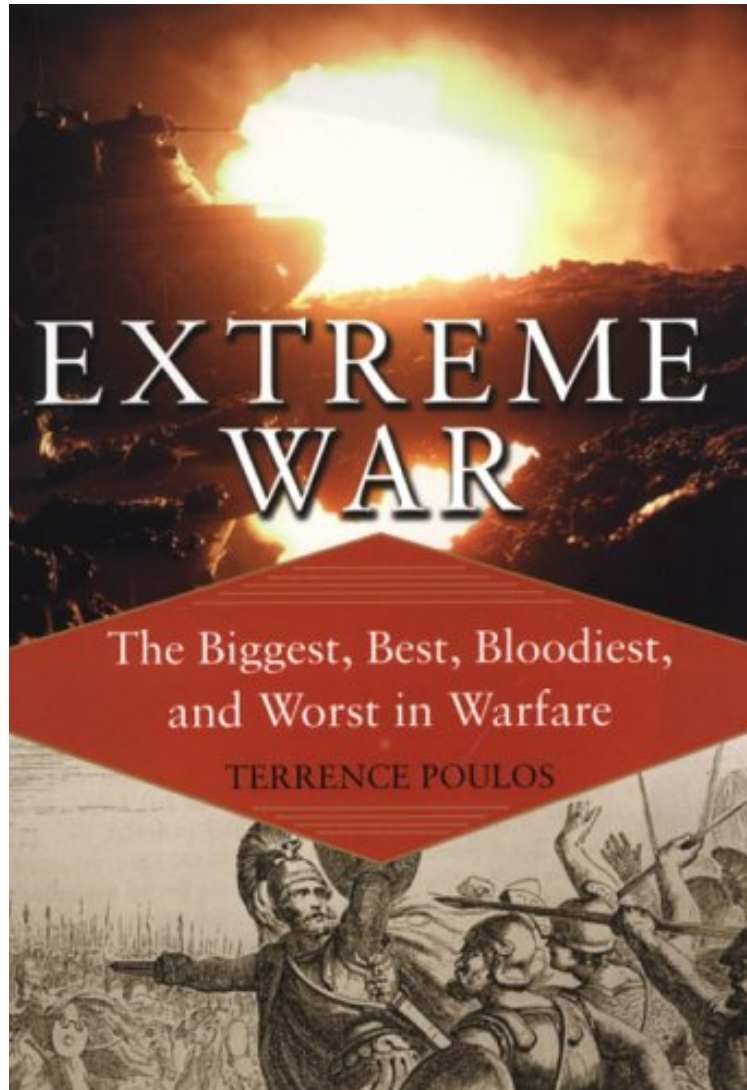


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Extreme War: The Biggest, Best, Bloodiest, and Worst in Warfare

Terrence Poulos

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is my second copy, lost my first oneBy Robert MeffordVery entertaining. If you are looking for in depth history this book is not its. If you are looking for an easy read with lots of interesting facts this is it. This is an encyclopedia of facts on warfare, weapons, battles and people. Well worth the price.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. No Challenging Historical Treatise, Just Fun FactsBy

Stratiotes Doxha Theon This is rather like the Guinness book of military history. A collection of some of the most, worst, best, biggest, bloodiest, etc. in military history. The author divides the book into several major sections based on an historical period: ancient, medieval, early modern, late 19th and early 20th century, and modern or recent history. Each section is packed with brief descriptions of the record-holding items organized within that section. It is a nice layout for reading in quick little tidbits without having to read in any particular order, just as the interest moves you. Fans of the History channel series, "The Most," will especially enjoy this book since the format is very similar. Not a bad showing for a book of its kind but I did find much of it lacking the detail most serious military history enthusiasts crave. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Valuable Reference By J. Allen This is an excellent book that provides detailed explanations of a wide number of subjects. Organized chronologically with sections devoted to the ancient and medieval worlds, the early modern era, the 1816-1913 period, and modern warfare, it covers an eclectic range of extreme topics such as the best and worst weaponry, the greatest and least effective military leaders, the most innovative tactics, and the best and worst conducted battles. The strength of this work is the authoritative quality of the subject matter presented; for example, providing the definitive answer on the often confused terms circumvallation and contravallation. Exact specifications of weapons from the Roman pilum to the German Panther tank are also provided as well as succinct, but thoroughly researched profiles of various military commanders. In particular, the biographical sketch of General Alexander Patch stands out, as does the author's clear and concise treatment of the 1944 Battle of Mortain. In short, Extreme War is a highly valuable reference work for the serious student of military history.

The Legendary Leaders, Weapons, Battlefields, And Tactics That Defined 4,000 Years Of Warfare What was the most effective infantry weapon of the Medieval world? Which defeat was the worst ever suffered by a Roman army? Was Erwin Rommel the best general of World War II, or the most overrated? And which legendary military leader endured the most embarrassing commanding debut in history? The answers to these and hundreds more of the questions regularly asked and argued over by armchair generals are brought together in one illustrated compilation. Within this thought-provoking and comprehensive volume, you'll witness the first victory won through small arms fire (Cerignola, April 1503) and walk among the worst army ever assembled (the rabble led by Peter the Hermit in the First Crusade), visit the greatest castle (the Crusader fortress of Krak de Chevaliers, in Syria) and fire the most common firearm in history, the Brown Bess. The topics are examined in fascinating detail, with careful analysis of how and why each leader, weapon, battle, or tactic came to fame or infamy. These amazing inside stories examine the heroes and the hapless, the finest hours and worst blunders the military world has yet seen. Essential reading for military history buffs of any stripe, the book covers the very best and worst of every period of warfare, from ancient times to the 21st century. No activity has had greater impact on mankind than war. It has destroyed entire civilizations, made kings of peasants and stripped rulers of their power, inspired every art form, ensured the growth or demise of religions, spurred invention and creativity. And like every human endeavor, warfare has its key figures and crucial developments: those people, weapons, and tactics that for better or worse made an indelible impact upon the field of battle and thus influenced the course of history. Extreme War is the first and only book to gather the pivotal generals, battles, and technological advancements of 4,000 years of martial history in one place. Within the pages of this extraordinary compendium are the stories behind the subjects, including deep and insightful analysis of why each battlefield tactic arose and succeeded or failed, and how the legendary leaders achieved their vaunted victories or suffered ignominious defeat. It details where and when the introduction of new weaponry shifted the advantage and altered the map, and how a single flawed decision could suddenly snatch defeat from the jaws of victory and cost a battle or an empire. Across land, on and under the sea, and in the air above, the superlatives of combat unfold. From the most decisive drawing of first blood to the most famous last stand, the weapons, strategies, and tactics that forever shaped the world through force of arms are fully explored. Extreme War provides well-reasoned and documented answers to hundreds of questions military buffs want to know and explores the blunders and tactical errors that played a formative role in military history. Not without controversy, and sure to start as many discussions as it settles, Extreme War brings compelling detail and rare clarity to the chaos that is combat.