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Pearl Harbor: The Verdict of History

By Gordon Prange, Donald M. Goldstein, Katherine V. Dillon



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Answers decades in the making about the shocking surprise attack on Pearl Harbor

In the predawn hours of December 7, 1941, a Japanese carrier group sailed toward Hawaii. A few minutes before 8:00 a.m., they received the order to rain death on the American base at Pearl Harbor, sinking dozens of ships, destroying hundreds of airplanes, and taking the lives of over two thousand servicemen. The carnage lasted only two hours, but more than seventy years later, terrible questions remain unanswered.

How did the Japanese slip past the American radar? Why were the Hawaiian defense forces so woefully underprepared? What, if anything, did American intelligence know before the first Japanese pilot shouted "Tora! Tora! Tora!"? In this incomparable volume, Pearl Harbor experts Gordon W. Prange, Donald M. Goldstein, and Katherine V. Dillon tackle dozens of thorny issues in an attempt to determine who was at fault for one of the most shocking military disasters in history.

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- Sales Rank: #387474 in eBooks
- Published on: 2014-05-06
- Released on: 2014-05-06
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Although few serious historians believe that President Roosevelt enticed the Japanese to attack at Pearl Harbor, the hoary accusation still retains some pop ularity among laypersons. In this se quel to At Dawn We Slept (LJ 11/1/81), Prange's successors address them selves to the question of blame for the attack and fire a heavy broadside against the historical revisionists and their high-level plots. Its relentless log ic and exhaustive detail will satisfy scholars and others intrigued by the controversy. Casual readers will find that this historiographical drama lacks the narrative structure and gripping prose style of Prange's earlier works. Literary Guild alternate; Military Book Club main selection. Raymond L. Puffer, U.S. Air Force History Prog., Los Angeles

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Review

"Mr. Prange has been called the 'dean of Pearl Harbor historians.' The accolade -- with appropriate credit to his associates -- is deserved". -- The Wall Street Journal

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