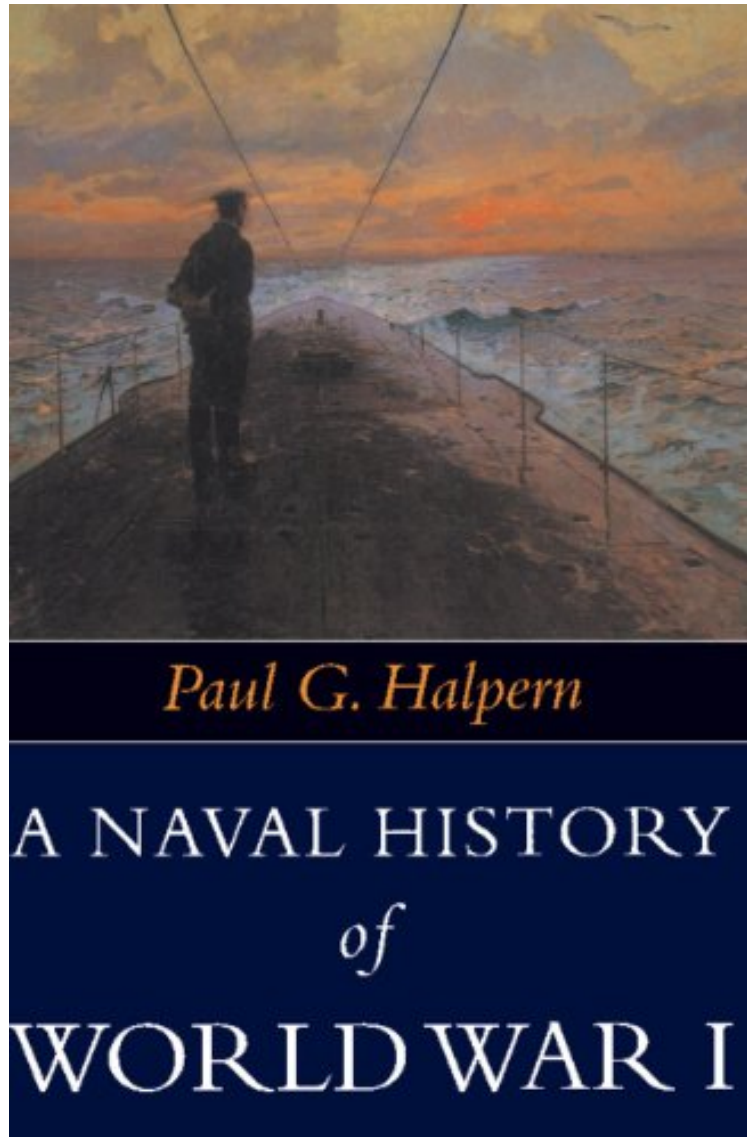


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## A Naval History of World War I

*Von Paul G. Halpern*

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**Von Paul G. Halpern : A Naval History of World War I** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Naval History of World War I:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ideal companion for the WW I Navy buffVon A. BirkigtWhen I first read about this book I thought "oh no, not another one!" I'm glad I still bought (and read) it.The First World War was caused by a naval arms race, and its outcome was decided on the high seas. However, besides the North Atlantic shipping lanes (and the battlefields of continental

Europe) there were literally hundreds of other theaters where only navies traded shots. Much of this warfare has been forgotten and a book like Paul G. Halpern's "Naval History of World War I", going a long way to retrieve the lost histories, was overdue. I was fascinated to read about the riverine war on the Danube, for instance, where the first and final shots of the war were fired. Equally fascinating were the stories about the operations in the Black Sea where, contrary to popular belief, the Germans and Turks never held an edge over the Russians. Little has been written on operations in the Baltic where the Russian Navy, again, was much more of a formidable opponent than is remembered today. And while much has been written about the war in the Mediterranean between 1940 and 1944, the fact that there was rather intense warfare in the Adriatic has escaped many, including this reviewer. Obviously, the main theaters of the Naval war were the North Sea, English Channel, and the Western Approaches, and the book gives them due attention. Since there was so much action, about half the book is devoted to operations in these theaters. Mr. Halpern restrains himself wisely to naval activities, giving fleeting attention to military and political activities only when it is essential to understand what happened and why. He brings across the main points determining the course of events, for example the issue of coaling (steamships needing hefty amounts of coal which limited their freedom of action to a degree unbeknownst to less-than-intimate naval adepts) or the fact that German naval activities usually were known to her opponents often before the ships were actually out of their bases. The level of detail is exactly right - not boring with too detailed descriptions of battles, and not leaving the reader ignorant of any important move a combatant made. Halpern's book references other authors (the annotations really only holding source information) so anyone enticed by this reading to dig deeper into a certain subject can go to the sources quoted here. All in all the ideal starting point for anybody who develops some interest in naval warfare of world war I, and a point of reference for the serious historian. Absolutely recommended. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The book about naval warfare in WWI on E. RABOSO GARCIA-BAQUERO This is the best analysis of WWI naval warfare ever written. Mr Halpern has written a fascinating text describing the main guidelines of the naval aspects of this conflict. Do not expect shot by shot descriptions of the battles, this book deals with the reasons leading to the different battles and their consequences and should be considered essential reading for anybody interested in World War I or Naval History.

Kurzbeschreibung There have been a number of studies published on the activities of British and German navies during World War I, but little on naval action in other arenas. This book offers for the first time a balanced history of the naval war as a whole, viewed from the perspective of all participants in all major theaters. The author's earlier examination *The Naval War in the Mediterranean, 1914-1918*, centered on submarine activities and allied efforts to counteract this new menace. With this welcome sequel he again takes the reader beyond those World War I operations staged on the North Sea. Halpern's clear and authoritative voice lends a cohesiveness to this encompassing view of the Italians and Austrians in the Adriatic; the Russians, Germans, and Turks in the Baltic and Black Seas; and French and British in the Mediterranean. Important riverine engagements--notably on the Danube--also are included, along with major colonial campaigns such as Mesopotamia and the Dardanelles. The role of neutral sea powers, such as the Swedes in the Baltic and the Dutch in the East Indies, is examined from the perspective of how their neutrality affected naval activity. Also discussed is the part played by the U.S. Navy and the often overlooked, but far from negligible, role of the Japanese navy. The latter is viewed in the context of the opening months of the war and in the Mediterranean during the height of the submarine crisis of 1917