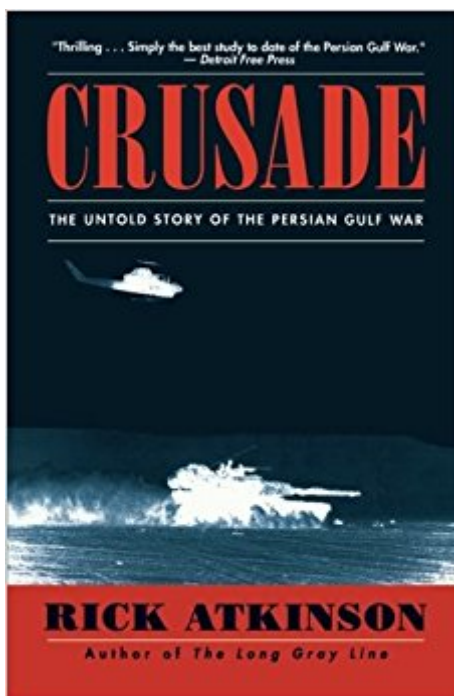


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Crusade: The Untold Story Of The Persian Gulf War



Synopsis

This definitive account of the Gulf War relates the previously untold story of the U.S. war with Iraq in the early 1990s. The author follows the 42-day war from the first night to the final day, providing vivid accounts of bombing runs, White House strategy sessions, firefights, and bitter internal conflicts.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Atkinson (The Long Gray Line) here writes an engrossing account of the actions and utterances of those who directed and fought in the Persian Gulf War. He also provides a thorough analysis of diplomatic and political aspects of the conflict. Rich in pertinent details, the powerful narrative leaps nimbly from Washington to Riyadh, from Baghdad to Kuwait City, and to various battle sites across the sands. Expectedly, the book's dominant personality is General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, whose operatic rages are here shown to be an integral element of his command style. Atkinson defends the much-maligned VII Corps commander, Gen. Fred Franks, against Schwarzkopf's "unfair and unwarranted" criticism. The basic tactical decisions are all here, but the author also addresses the broader issues such as the true effectiveness of the air war, what role the Vietnam War played in Desert Shield/Desert Storm ("For Norman Schwarzkopf and his lieutenants, this war lasted not six weeks but twenty years"), and passes judgment on the reality-testing of the U.S. Army AirLand Battle doctrine. Photos. 75,000 first printing; first serial to the Washington Post; History Book Club main selection; author tour. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This interesting account of the 1991 Persian Gulf War by a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter features a number of original observations about the conduct of the war. For example, Atkinson discloses that the Bush administration allowed navy warships to fire cruise missiles covertly over Iran against Iraqi targets. Among his other disclosures are the use of napalm and fuel air explosives on Iraqi infantry positions and the suggestion by Air Force Brig. Gen. Buster Glosson to use small nuclear weapons against Iraqi targets. Atkinson is extremely critical of Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf's behavior. Although Schwarzkopf is credited with being an accomplished military strategist, he is portrayed as someone who abused and publicly denigrated his subordinates and who appeared to be in a near-constant state of rage. Recommended for general readers. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 6/15/93.- Nader Entessar, Spring Hill Coll. , Mobile, Ala.Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Mr. Atkinson knows how to write an interesting and engaging story, and he does so pretty well in this book. Considering the broad subject and the length of the book it is a testament to the author's writing skills that the reader never gets bored or bogged down in unnecessary details. This is an interesting account of many facets of the Persian Gulf War (the first one), but by all means it is not the definitive nor the all-encompassing history of that war. The book mainly focus on the US side of the conflict, and particularly on the US Army and USAF contribution to the war. While there is a lot of evident research that went into this book, it still relies a lot on oral history. The strong points in the book are the engaging story telling, the looks behind the scenes of the preparation and war plans-making, the personal relations between the political and military leaders, and the accounts of most mayor US battles in the conflict. All of this is very skillfully webbed and presented to the reader in a very attractive format. Unfortunately, there is almost no mention, even less any meaningful recount of the contribution of the many other partners in the Coalition, with basically only the UK, France and the Arab Ground Forces being briefly mentioned. And the naval aspect of the war gets a very superficial treatment, besides a few rather anecdotal stories. The pictures are really not up to par with the text, and in some instances the date of the writing (just one year after the war finished in 1992-1993) clearly shines through as a lot of new and declassified information has since become available that is not included in the book (hint to the author and editor, an updated edition is needed!). Finally, being based a lot on oral history, there is an evident lack of own analysis and opinion. However, overall these negative points are minor when compared with the overall very positive reading experience. Simply don't expect to be presented with the final historical and

complete analysis of the First Persian Gulf War. If you are looking for a interesting and engaging book (if there is such thing when dealing with war, death and destruction) about the US contribution in the Gulf War, this is it - recommended.

I was very impressed by the amount of information and detail in this book. It made me able to visualize how it was for the servicemen who fought in Desert Storm. I would highly recommend this title if you're interested in a knowledgable book about the war and how it was for our men and women entrenched in it. I wanted to read several books that would give me a feel for the war and this one did. This was only one of two books I used for research, and it was invaluable, so I highly recommend it.

MR. ATKINSON, AS USUAL, WRITES OF THE MILITARY AS IF HE WAS PRESENT TAKING NOTES. THERE IS NOTHING, THIS WRITER, LEFT TO QUESTION. HIS PORTRAIT OF GEN. SCHWARTZKOPF WILL SURPRISE THE READER REMEMBERING HIM FROM HIS ALMOST DAILY BRIEFINGS. BEHIND THE PICTURE OF AN AFFABLE, CONGENIAL POINTMAN LIES AN EXPLOSIVE TASKMASTER, CONSUMED WITH THE JOB AT HAND AND NOT SUFFERING MISTAKES. HIS DELINIATION OF THE VARIOUS OTHER PLAYERS IN THIS TALE OF WAR ARE SUPERB BRINGING INSIGHT TO THE VAST UNDERTAKING THAT WAS DESERT STORM. THE REVELATIONS OF THE TERRIBLE BURDEN FELT BY THOSE WHO SEND MEN TO BATTLE ARE REVEALED AS BLOOD SACRIFICES CONCIOUSLY BUT NECESSARILY MADE. REPORTS OF FRIENDLY FIRE ARE EXPLAINED AND MADE UNDERSTANDABLE, NO MATTER WHAT ONE'S FEELINGS, ARE AS THE COST OF THE BUSINESS OF WAR. THIS WAS MORE THAN A 'WEEKEND WAR' STORY. MR. ATKINSON HAS A WORTHY SUCCESSOR TO 'AN ARMY AT DAWN', HIS PULITZER AWARD DEPICTION OF 'TORCH', THE INVASION OF NORTH AFRICA, 1942-1943, VOL.1 OF A TRILOGY ON WWII.

I was really unfamiliar with most of the material herein. Atkinson exposes the gritty side of war planning and politics. Not quite as exciting as his famous WWII trilogy.

Rick Atkinson's account of the First Gulf War captures the essence the conflict and calls out the many sacrifices made by our service members in a war portrayed in the media (manipulated by the military) as a nearly bloodless computer game for the allied forces. Crusade's attention to detail brought back memory's of the time and put somethings in a historical perspective for me. What was

interesting is that this account firmly meshed with the personal accounts of the war that other veterans have shared with me (from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps). With the book published so soon after the war, the only thing I can fault in is Mr. Atkinson's ability to predict the future. Calling out the conflict as insignificant with no impact, we can see clearly now (with hindsight being 20/20) that we were setting off the fuse for a chain of events leading to Global War On Terror. I highly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in history or current political events. John O'Farrell is an interactive marketing expert in the metropolitan New York area. You can visit his blog: AllThingsInteractive.com

Great book with good analysis and funny anecdotes. He notes that Desert Storm was the only battle in which a brigade of tanks was formed into a line.

The book reveals a side of Schwarzkopf which the "heroic" leader of forces fighting Saddam that is not well known: he was a brutalizing browbeater of those under his command.

Thank you!

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