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The Korean War: How We Met The Challenge: How All-Out Asian War Was Averted: Why MacArthur Was Dismissed: Why Today's War Objectives Must Be Limit



Synopsis

In December 1950 General Matthew B. Ridgway replaced General Walton Walker as commander of the Eighth Army, and in April 1951 he succeeded Douglas MacArthur as supreme commander of the United Nations forces in Korea and supreme commander of the United States Far East Command. In this spirited book, General Ridgway describes how he took a dispirited army and rebuilt it in a few short months, leading it into battle against the Chinese and North Korean forces, forcing them back over the 38th parallel and achieving victory. It is a book that takes a close look at MacArthur, his failings and brilliance, and a hard look at the idea of limited war. Infused with a humane leader's appreciation for the ordinary fighting soldier, Ridgway's history also teaches important lessons about Vietnam and any future conflict. Above all, he emphasizes: We should not involve ourselves in escalating warfare without a specific and attainable goal.

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Customer Reviews

Matthew B. Ridgway, General, U.S. Army, is retired. In December, 1950, Ridgway replaced General Walton Walker as commander of the Eighth Army, and in April, 1951, he succeeded Douglas MacArthur as supreme commander of the United Nations forces in Korea and supreme commander of the United States Far East Command. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

General Mathew Ridgway writes a well written and notable work of history on the Korean War from 1950 - 1953. He was there at the highest levels and knew the big picture and the details of this terrible conflict. He was the general who replaced General Douglas MacAuthor after President

Truman fired him for insubordination. The Korean War cost 3M lives and was a brutal conflict. A turning point in the containment policy to prevent communism from taking over the world. It was a surrogate proxy war between Communist International forces and the United States, Republic of Korea (ROK) and United Nation forces. The communist forces of North Korea were later supported by Mao Tse Tung's Red Army after it appeared that North Korea might be forced out after the Inchon amphibious assault in Sept of 1950 which turned the tide against the Communists in the first year of the conflict. Excellent maps and photographs are provided showing how the conflict moved from North to South to the Pusan enclave, the Inchon amphibious assault which threw the North Korea forces back to the introducing of massive forces under Mao Tse Tung which threw the Americans back past the 38 th parallel. Probably the most important aspect of this book is to show the impact of General Douglas MacArthur's bold plan of an amphibious landing behind the North Koreans to shatter them. His vision and persuasion of the American Joint Chiefs of Staff that Korea could be saved from communist aggressive was a brilliant performance of turning what everyone thought was a losing cause to where it showed the way to change a debacle into a great victory. Practically everyone believed that South Korea could not be saved and that it was a lost cause. However Gen. MacArthur saw it differently and by a forceful and charismatic persuasion convinced other high level generals and admirals that the situation could be reversed. He had a plan which was doable if only he could convince others at his level it was a viable course of action. From all appearances the Inchon amphibious assault that he proposed looked impossible due to vastly changing tides at the attack point which limited water access to Inchon for only a few hours each day. In a brilliant debate style he countered to the critics of the plan that if they thought the landing would be impossible then so would the enemy and therefore they would be caught by surprise by the assault. It worked. It is doubtful whether anyone else could have sold the bold and risky assault plan to such a skeptical military leadership. Because of General MacArthur's speaking ability, brilliance in answering to the nay sayers, tenacity and resolve today South Korea is the home of 50 M allies of freedom loving people today. A great example of how one inspired man with a plan and the ability to convince others can have a great impact on world history. After MacArthur got fired by President Truman, General Mathew Ridgeway took over command and by aggressive action and determined leadership shifted the momentum away from the Chinese communist forces and forced them back above the 38th parallel. A wonderful history book for your collection.....one of the best.

Slow starting the read...but once I got into the book I found this man to have a wide range of both Military & Political wisdom as it relates to wars going forward including, but not limited to the War in

Korea....forget the "Police Action" put forth by the Truman Administration. As with many other people both Generals and below in Rank as well as a few civilian writers he gives some considerable thought at to the Military Stance (Readiness for unexpected war, being able both with men and Machines (kept in good condition & ready for battle); he reminds us of how many times we are not ready for war. Up until Korea we had our oceans for potential enemies to cross to "get at our industry & heartland" but that is no longer the case with so many countries building missiles with atomic warheads that can reach our shores not to mention Cyber-War which we are going through RIGHT NOW!!! Unfortunately, I believe he is much too worshipful of "Dugout" Douglas MacArthur as if he were the one Brilliant mind in both WW-II and in Korea.....many brilliant minds most people have never heard of except for Admiral of the Pacific Navy during WW-II and the men under him. Also, O P Smith whose brilliance is second to none in that he disobeyed somewhat MacArthurs orders to "run to the Yalu river giving no thought to keeping Battalions close enough to each other to give supporting fire and protection. I have read F R Fehrenbach and others regarding the Korean War in general but also the "First Marine Division" 5 volume collection of Marine operations in Korea which was extremely illuminating.....the Marines man times from the very beginning of the war were pulled from place to place to plug holes left by the Army troops that were not well led or equipped early in the war....a RECOMMENDED READ

Very Excellent coverage of the general who saved the day in the Korean War when we were pushed far south when the Communist Chinese entered the war. In depth coverage of MacArthur's personality and actions, plus a very good look at how a commanding officer should relate to the men under him that he is responsible for.

Being a history buff, and not being that knowledgeable concerning the Korean War, I've been reading more about it. My father served with General Ridgway during WWII so I familiar with his reputation. A well done work. Gives good insight into the overall problems of Korea from both the Government and Military sides. Complements other works.

I learned about General Ridgway's work in Korea before I got there. His turn around from losing to winning saved many lives of those like me who followed. I served in the Pusan area and never got shot at. All the fighting was around the parallel. His assessment of General MacArthur is fair all around as is his report on President Truman. I recommend this for any person interested in the Korean War.

Ridgeway's writing gives an accurate account of the Korean conflict without hyperbole. Even as the book was published two years after MacArthur's death, Ridgeway maintains a very respectful account of MacArthur's 'genius'. This is not a page turner, but it does provide a first hand look at the challenges of this war. It is curious after what was learned in this conflict why the US pursued more of the same in Vietnam.

General Ridgway provides an important history of the United States during its ascendance to Free World leadership in the mid 20th century. His discussion of the decisions made and who made the decisions, while being an active participant, is a monumental contribution. He dedicated the work to General George C. Marshall. Our nation was most fortunate to have men such as these to lead our military.

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