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Von Bill Fawcett

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Produktinformation -Verkaufsrank: #649126 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2009-01-09Erscheinungsdatum: 2009-10-06File Name: B001P9O308 | File size: 38.Mb

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Lose a Battle: Foolish Plans and Great Military Blunders (How to Lose Series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Lehrreiche SchlachtberichteVon Marco HansenHobbystrategen wie ich werden mit diesem Buch viel Freude haben.

Es finden sich jede Menge Schlachtberichte (einige wenige auch mit Karten) die meist recht detailliert und leicht verständlich beschreiben warum die getroffenen Entscheidungen bisweilen recht "ungeschickt" waren (vorsichtig ausgedrückt). Dies geht quer durch die Zeiten, und man kommt nicht umhin sich zu fragen, ob denn die jeweiligen Generäle nicht die Lektionen der Vergangenheit studiert haben, oder wie sie überhaupt ein Kommando bekommen konnten. An einigen Stellen stimme ich vielleicht nicht ganz mit der Meinung des Autors überein, aber die Fakten an sich sind derart neutral dargestellt, dass man durchaus seine eigenen Schlüsse ziehen kann was ja auch ganz positiv ist. Fazit: wer sich für Taktik interessiert kann mit diesem Buch nicht viel falsch machen. Es ist angenehm zu lesen (jede Schlacht umfasst nur ein Paar Seiten, die man auch schnell mal zwischendurch lesen kann) und bietet einen guten Einstieg in die Materie.

**Kurzbeschreibung** A remarkable compendium of the worst military decisions and the men who made them The annals of history are littered with horribly bad military leaders. These combat incompetents found amazing ways to ensure their army's defeat. Whether it was a lack of proper planning, miscalculation, ego, bad luck, or just plain stupidity, certain wartime stratagems should never have left the drawing board. Written with wit, intelligence, and eminent readability, *How to Lose a Battle* pays dubious homage to these momentous and bloody blunders, including: Cannae, 216 B.C.: the bumbling Romans lose 80,000 troops to Hannibal's forces. The Second Crusade: an entire Christian army is slaughtered when it stops for a drink of water. The Battle of Britain: Hitler's dreaded Luftwaffe blows it big-time. Pearl Harbor: more than one warning of the impending attack is there, but nobody listens. *How to Lose a Battle* includes more than thirty-five chapters worth of astonishing (and avoidable) disasters, both infamous and obscure -- a treasure trove of trivia, history, and jaw-dropping facts about the most costly military missteps ever taken. From Publishers Weekly The publisher bills this effort as a "tongue-in-cheek" and "humorous" analysis of the world's worst military disasters. But aside from wry chapter titles (e.g., "Austerlitz: They Fell for It? Austria, 1805"), these are generally straightforward accounts of some of the deadliest carnage in human history. That includes the Civil War's Battle of Antietam the bloodiest single day in American history, during which some 6,000 Union and Confederate soldiers were killed and more than 16,000 were wounded and the three-day Battle of Gettysburg, which resulted in 51,000 casualties on both sides. There's also the WWII Battle of Okinawa, during which more than 12,000 Americans were killed and nearly 32,000 wounded, along with 142,000 estimated Japanese casualties (military and civilian). Fawcett (*You Did What? Mad Plans and Great Historical Disasters*) gathers 37 concise, analytical, finger-pointing accounts of these and other battles from ancient times to the late 1960s. He and contributors Brian Thomsen, William R. Forstchen, Douglas Niles and Edward E. Kramer readably and insightfully convey a wide knowledge of military history, but more in-depth and well-annotated analyses of these battles are readily available elsewhere. (July 1) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist This surprisingly amusing anthology could be subtitled *Monuments to Stupidity*. Fawcett is the editor of *Hunters and Shooters* (1995) and has also written science-fiction and mystery novels. He and several other writers have written a series of essays dissecting some of the greatest military disasters, from antiquity to the twentieth century. Some of these fiascos are probably well known even to laypersons, including Lee's blunders at Gettysburg and Hitler's insistence on fighting to the death at Stalingrad. But some of the more obscure episodes are particularly informative and enjoyable (if one allows the passage of time to soften the horror of human carnage). At Arbela, the Persian emperor Darius allowed his personal cowardice to deliver a victory to the vastly outnumbered forces of Alexander the Great. At San Jacinto, the Mexican Santa Anna (the self-styled Napoleon of the West) saw his sleeping army slaughtered, guaranteeing the loss of Texas. The writers approach their subjects with a healthy dose of sarcasm and even humor. This book will appeal to both general readers and amateur military historians. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved