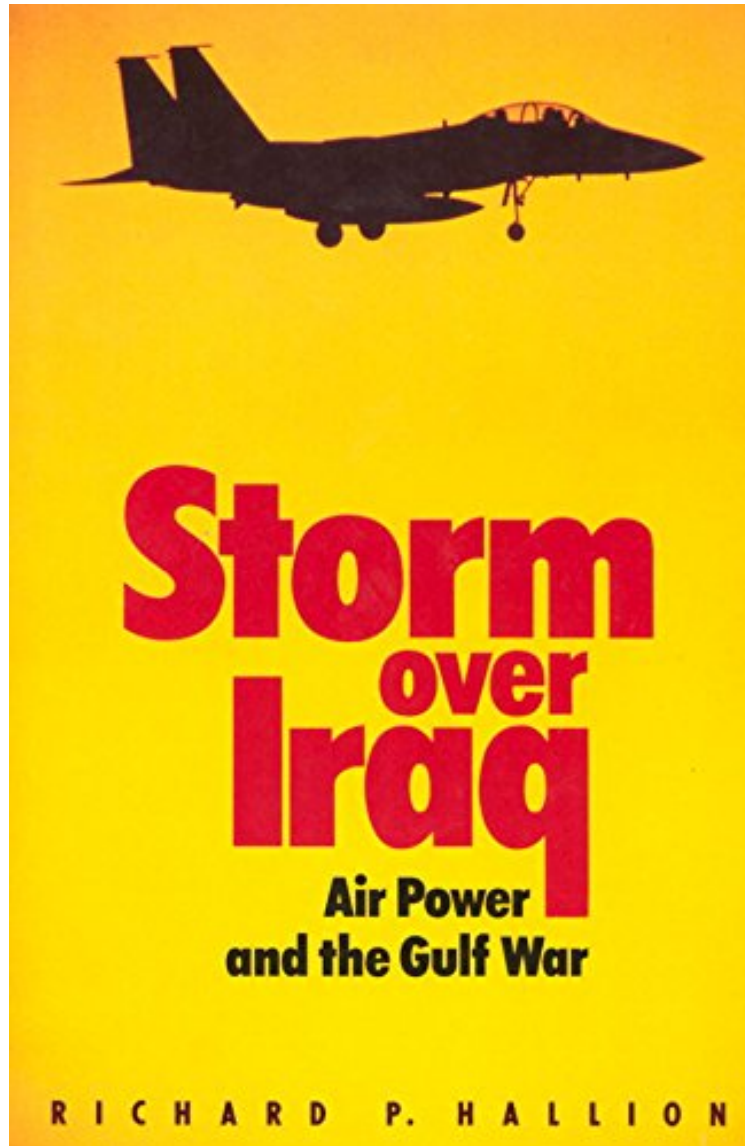


(Read ebook) Storm Over Iraq: Air Power and the Gulf War

Storm Over Iraq: Air Power and the Gulf War

Von Richard Hallion

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Von Richard Hallion : Storm Over Iraq: Air Power and the Gulf War before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Storm Over Iraq: Air Power and the Gulf War:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A very good introduction to US air power and strategy Von Ein Kunde Richard Hallion has produced a book which provides one of the best overviews available on the evolution of US air power and strategy in general, and in the 1990-91 Gulf war in particular. Previous reviewers' comments on the rather sterile text that Hallion uses are not without truth,

although I didn't find this a particularly important shortcoming of the book. One of the book's key strengths is that it places the 1990-91 Gulf war into a detailed, well-explained context. He fully describes how US air power and military strategy reached the position it was in in 1990, and how this affected the ability of the US to fight the Gulf war. The main shortcoming of the book - and this is a serious problem, in my view - is when Hallion tries to talk about Middle East politics and the arguments for and against Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. These issues are peripheral to the subject of his book, and he displays a serious lack of knowledge about them (or an unwillingness to discuss and acknowledge them). Hallion talks about matters such as Iraqi aggression, its WMD program, its relations with its neighbours pre-August 1990, and the like, in simplistic terms. If he really thought that these subjects needed mention, he should have included some discussion of Iraq's claims against Kuwait, of Iraq's domestic political situation in the period 1988-1990 and how this may have influenced Saddam's decision to invade Kuwait, and of allied objectives in the region (ie: political economy factors other than oil - the US's desire to see and protect free markets, the UK's need to protect Kuwaiti investments in the UK lest the Pound plummet if Iraq 'cashed in' Kuwaiti assets abroad etc). Worst of all, he seems to have fallen for the 'Saddam as another Hitler' theory. If he wanted to look at the political psychology of Saddam, mention should also have been made of the 'Saddam as another Bismark', or 'Saddam as another Napoleon' or 'Saddam caught in a power vacuum' theories as well - these are all important explanations behind Saddam's political behaviour. Mr Hallion, stick to the subject of air power, strategy, theory, and history - for which you have a flair and knowledge. Having said all of this, it is the role of a book reviewer to be critical of the work he or she is reviewing. Overall, this book is excellent, and highly recommended for readers looking for an introduction to the history, strategy, and tactics of air power.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A history of the role of air power in the military

Von T. W. Richard Hallion's work isn't a blow-by-blow account of the events of Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Rather, it's a very well-documented study of the changes in U.S. military and political thinking since World War One with a particular focus on the period following the Vietnam War. The author chronicles the changes in leadership and policy as the veterans of Vietnam were promoted up through the ranks into command positions, how they changed the way the military is utilized in political crisis, and the decisions which affect military weapons procurement. For example, the workhorse of the Vietnam air campaign was the F4 Phantom II, a supersonic missile platform that wasn't particularly maneuverable, that was developed by the US Navy and thrust upon the US Air Force by a budget-conscious Robert McNamara, head of the Department of Defense at the time. The Phantom became the darling of the services over the skies of North Vietnam, succeeding in just about every role assigned to it. Buoyed by this success, McNamara tried to apply the converse theory - take a land-based US Air Force aircraft and apply it to the Navy - which resulted in the failure of the F-111A. It was this failure which prompted the Navy to develop its own jet fighter - the F-14 Tomcat. This touched off a long line of fighter aircraft which controlled the skies of Kuwait and Iraq some 20 years after their introduction into the US military: the F-15 Eagle, the F-16 Falcon, and the F-117 stealth strike fighter. The F-117, by its deployment in a single battle, managed to render 50 years of Soviet military technology development obsolete. It may have indirectly contributed to the fall of the Soviet regime. Until I read Mr. Hallion's book, I was not aware of the facts surrounding the development of these fine fighters. I think the reader will be just as much surprised and educated by the events described in the book as I was. Although originally published in 1992, the concepts described in this book are still very much current as we watch arguments unfold around the F-22 stealth air superiority fighter. Questions concerning the need for a new military aircraft and the expense of a single unit when more units of a lesser quality weapon could be purchased for the same money are reminiscent of the arguments which arose during the development of the F-14 at the end of the Phantom's career. Mr. Hallion's book lays the groundwork for readers to develop their own opinions concerning military spending - he avoids the trap of forcing his own opinions upon the reader - and he documents his sources liberally throughout the text. I found it necessary to keep two bookmarks: one for the main text and the second for the notes at the end of the book. Accompanying the text are a series of brief essays which discuss particular elements of modern combat theory, such as air power, battlefield, and missile technologies. I truly enjoyed reading them following the education I received from the main text of the book. There is also a brief photo section which illustrates several points of the book, including radar screenshots of Iraqi troops fleeing from Kuwait along the Highway of Death, recon photos, the weapons used in the conflict, and the leaders of the forces involved in the fighting. This is not a book to take on a trip to the beach and would probably not appeal to those seeking tales of aviation adventure. Rather, this is a book for enthusiasts and students of air power, strategy, history, and military technology. For this audience, this is an indispensable resource. I found the book easy enough to read and not as dry as most other books on this subject area tend to be. Overall, a good read and a good education.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A convincing argument for what went right in the air war.

Von gregnnancy@msn.com This book is well written, and enjoyable to read. It presents a convincing, if not complete argument for the Air Force. The work of the Air Force is well detailed and the author presents a huge amount of information about tactics that are not commonly known. All of this in a language that anyone can understand. Even so, one can not help but feel that the book is presenting the Gulf War as the first war won by air power alone. A strong read, if you accept the prejudices, and realize that the land forces, and sea forces, and special forces also have a

legitimate claim to the Gulf War victory.

Kurzbeschreibung An incisive account of the Persian Gulf War, *Storm Over Iraq* shows how the success of Operation Desert Storm was the product of two decades of profound changes in the American approach to defense, military doctrine, and combat operations. The first detailed analysis of why the Gulf War could be fought the way it was, the book examines the planning and preparation for war. Richard P. Hallion argues that the ascendancy of precision air power in warfare which fulfilled the promise that air power had held for more than seventy-five years reflects the revolutionary adaptation of a war strategy that targets things rather than people, allowing one to control an opposing nation without destroying it. Although it had its share of land and sea engagements, the Persian Gulf War of 1990-91 was preeminently an aerial conflict, one in which the Allied forces were able to put into practice an evolving theory of warcraft that favored the destruction of things over people and the control rather than the conquest of an enemy power. From a technological standpoint, writes U.S. Air Force historian Richard Hallion, the Allied forces were inordinately successful. He traces the history of air-combat techniques employed in battle over Iraq, analyzes the weaponry used (including the remarkable F117A stealth fighter), and points out the shortcomings in the Allies' performance, notably in combat search and rescue. **Pressestimmen** Authoritative and absorbing. . . . Hallion's argument is provocative and challenges many current perceptions of military power projection. Well written, timely and incisive A rare find. **Military** An important study. . . . Hallion traces the evolution of air power doctrine from World War I to [the Gulf War]. It is a story of aspirations and expectations that for many years exceeded the reach of available technology, giving rise to a widespread skepticism about the potential of strategic bombardment. **Journal of Military History** Superb . . . [Storm over Iraq] may be the benchmark by which we measure understanding of the debate over the revolution in warfare that was heralded by Operation Desert Storm. **Airpower Journal**