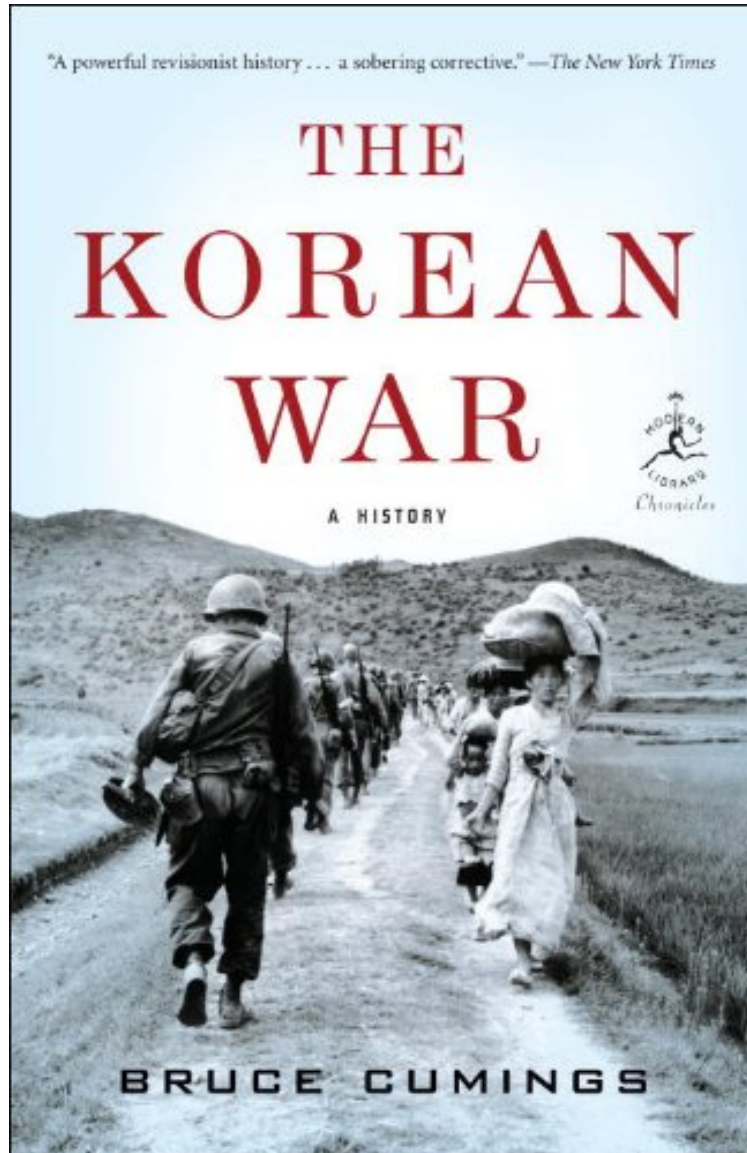


(Download ebook) The Korean War: A History (Modern Library Chronicles Series)

The Korean War: A History (Modern Library Chronicles Series)

Von Bruce Cumings

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Von Bruce Cumings : The Korean War: A History (Modern Library Chronicles Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Korean War: A History (Modern Library Chronicles Series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Cold War and the importance of historyVon M. PaukertBruce Cumings book The Korean War: a history may be seen as a concise introduction to a complex problem. To the common reader not overly familiar with the intricacies of this

conflict, it can serve as a thorough and precise, yet very readable overview of important aspects of this quintessential conflict of the Cold War era. It distinguishes itself from a host of narrowly focused books typically highlighting the US intervention of 1950-1953 and its military aspects, often presented in a one-sided fashion. To readers with a deeper knowledge of the conflict that originated well before 1950 and the political environment in which the escalation of 1950 took place, this book is more of a summary of Cumings' major work published three decades before and a brief reference to more current studies and projects like the Cold War International History Project which brings to attention recently unearthed documentary material. As such it is not a study but more of a textbook. Its strength lies in the author's capacity to put this forgotten war into context. While a growing number of reports and personal accounts of the Korean War describe the military development, typically from a US-only perspective, Cumings reflects on the victims of the war, decision-makers on all sides, internal conditions in the North and the South, the tumultuous and explosive conditions in US-occupied South Korea preceding the start of all-out war in June 1950, the international arena, post-war developments, and the meaning of the war to Koreans of today. It is by no means easy reading as the author demolishes the myth of a valiant fight of the forces of freedom against the forces of tyranny. The Founding Fathers of modern America, according to Cumings, would hardly have recognized the national security state established by Harry Truman and Dean Acheson. Their single-handed decision to intervene in the Korean conflict first by allying themselves with Syngman Rhee's despotic regime, then by sending ground troops marks the beginning of a series of interventions in foreign countries in the name of national security solely based on the idea of a monolithic world-embracing communist movement. What remains particularly disturbing is the fact that the very definition, or logic, of national security has rarely been questioned, its arcane nature instead taken as a given without further questioning, as if most if not all of governments' business was naturally meant to be beyond public scrutiny for the sake of democracy. In many cases from East Asia to Latin America and the Middle East it is difficult to see how any form of security for the US was ever achieved by US intervention, whereas it is not difficult to assess a significant degree of insecurity in many countries affected by politics emanating from Washington, Iraq and Afghanistan being no precedents. Cumings has occasionally been labeled a revisionist by some other academics and the usual would-be experts whose loyalty is more to ideology than to academic scrutiny, particularly in the U.S. This phenomenon may be more symptomatic of a certain political culture (of the U.S.) than indicative of any non-academic desires of the author, like promoting the image of the North Korean government (past or present) or communism as such. Similar phenomena can be identified in the debate of the Vietnam War. In that case, however, the very large number of authors makes it more difficult for any single author to become the object of ideological tirades. Authors like Frances Fitzgerald, David Halberstam and Daniel Ellsberg - who at the time of the war and shortly thereafter might have been branded revisionist have since been joined by dozens of similarly critical authors. In the case of the Korean War, there seems to be a shortage of critical voices. Revisionism, in this sense, might rather be seen as a positive quality to be distinguished from conformist and loyalist and uncritical writing. Perhaps the major if not only point of interest in such debates which tend to focus on authors, not their work is the fact that even after more than two decades after the collapse of the USSR, the debate continues to be marked by partisanship, polarization, anti-scientism, and ideological brain-wash. The notion of scientific work and dialogue as a value in its own right is commonly missed. This is not a positive development. At a time when newspaper publishers all over Europe and North America shout out loud for freedom of expression (and, in particular, the press) in the light of the Islam debate and its violent repercussions, the value of balanced reporting and critical research seems to have become a victim of populism. This small paperback is as thought provoking as a book on the Cold War (and Korea) should be. What makes it recommendable to readers of all levels of knowledge is its close attention to the essence and cost of war: the utter devastation of human life, the transformation of citizens into military assets detached from the consequences of their actions, and the ruthlessness of political decision-makers concerned more about their own professional status and future than about the drastic consequences of their verdict for millions of people. This may sound as a simple, even naive assessment. But the continued readiness of common people as well as notorious experts to approve aggressive politics and schemes that lead to war is an unmistakable reminder that this simple truth deserves to be retold over and over again particularly to Americans who, as Cumings notes, have not experienced war on their own soil for 150 years but brought war to countless other countries since the start of the Cold War.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Title Von Customer It is very hard to find a good title for this review. The book is at once great and very bad. Great as it highlights aspects before and beyond the war itself. Bad as it pushes a lot of unproven assumptions of the author in half sentences and untruth on the reader. Which is my big grievance with it. For example the author criticizes the statements of another author because documents declassified in 99 support the criticism. The passage gives the impression the other author should have included references to the documents and willfully choose not to. Only the other author wrote his book in 87, twelve years before it got declassified. In another passage it is claimed the Korean war made possible the economic regrowth of Japan and Germany. While the case for Japan is indeed soundly argued in this book, there are only two mentioning of Germany, this one and a second in a very different context. There is no supporting evidence cited for these two words. Other aspects get seemingly willfully ignored, too. The author condemns the aerial bombardment of North Korea, with references to the dams bombed late in the war. He never mentions that

peacetalks were being conducted already and which were not successful because of obstruction by the communist side. There are lots of worthwhile points made that need to be argued but the propagandistic feeling of a big part of the book is disappointing. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The true story of Korea war!!! Von Alice in WWII am Korean. This book is about the hidden true story of Korean war. I strongly suggest you read this story. Yes, still in South Korea there are many attempts to erase this history by pro-Japan and pro-USA party for over 70 years.

Kurzbeschreibung **A BRACING ACCOUNT OF A WAR THAT IS EITHER MISUNDERSTOOD, FORGOTTEN, OR WILLFULLY IGNORED.** For Americans, it was a discrete conflict lasting from 1950 to 1953. But for the Asian world the Korean War was a generations-long struggle that still haunts contemporary events. With access to new evidence and secret materials from both here and abroad, including an archive of captured North Korean documents, Bruce Cumings reveals the war as it was actually fought. He describes its origin as a civil war, preordained long before the first shots were fired in June 1950 by lingering fury over Japan's occupation of Korea from 1910 to 1945. Cumings then shares the neglected history of America's post-World War II occupation of Korea, reveals untold stories of bloody insurgencies and rebellions, and tells of the United States officially entering the action on the side of the South, exposing as never before the appalling massacres and atrocities committed on all sides. Elegantly written and blisteringly honest, *The Korean War*, like the war it illuminates, is brief, devastating, and essential. *Pressestimmen* A powerful revisionist history . . . a sobering corrective. *The New York Times* Worth reading . . . This work raises the question of what Korea can tell us about the outlook for Iraq and Afghanistan. *Financial Times* Well-sourced [and] elegantly presented. *The Wall Street Journal* From the Trade Paperback edition. Kurzbeschreibung **A BRACING ACCOUNT OF A WAR THAT IS EITHER MISUNDERSTOOD, FORGOTTEN, OR WILLFULLY IGNORED.** For Americans, it was a discrete conflict lasting from 1950 to 1953. But for the Asian world the Korean War was a generations-long struggle that still haunts contemporary events. With access to new evidence and secret materials from both here and abroad, including an archive of captured North Korean documents, Bruce Cumings reveals the war as it was actually fought. He describes its origin as a civil war, preordained long before the first shots were fired in June 1950 by lingering fury over Japan's occupation of Korea from 1910 to 1945. Cumings then shares the neglected history of America's post-World War II occupation of Korea, reveals untold stories of bloody insurgencies and rebellions, and tells of the United States officially entering the action on the side of the South, exposing as never before the appalling massacres and atrocities committed on all sides. Elegantly written and blisteringly honest, *The Korean War*, like the war it illuminates, is brief, devastating, and essential.