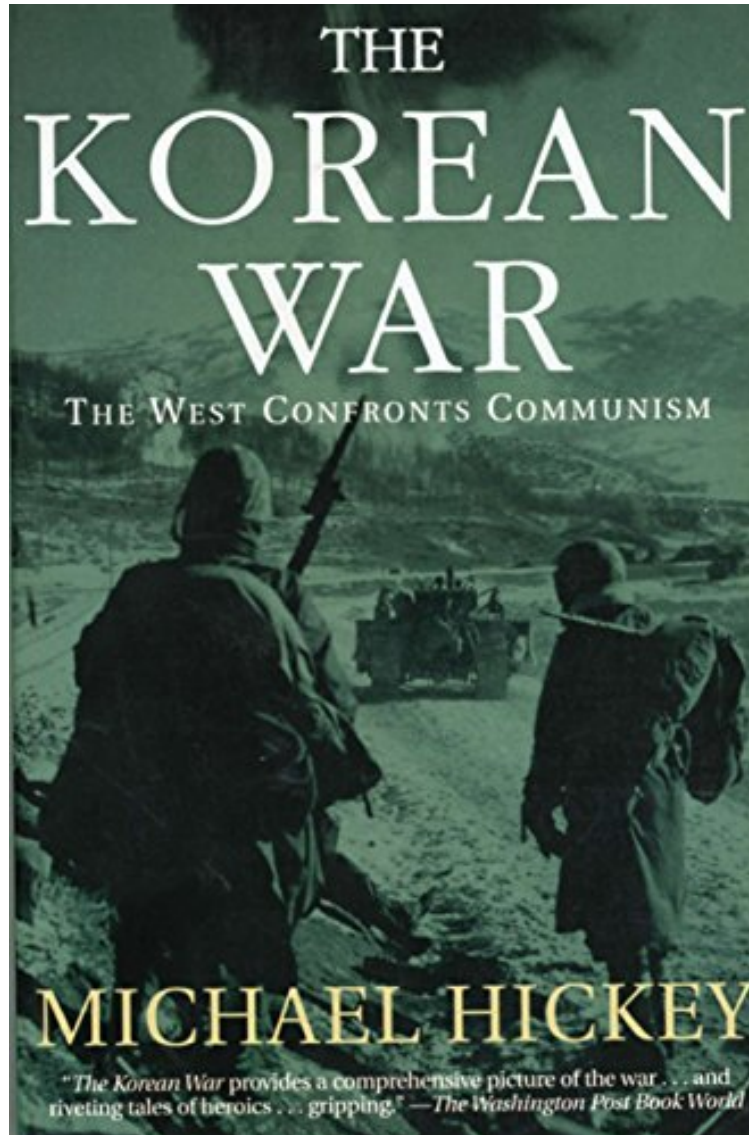


(Library ebook) The Korean War: The West Confronts Communism

## The Korean War: The West Confronts Communism

Von Michael Hickey

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Produktinformation Veröffentlicht am: 2001-09-04 Erscheinungsdatum: 2001-10-24 File Name: B013JQM86K  
| File size: 65.Mb

**Von Michael Hickey : The Korean War: The West Confronts Communism** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Korean War: The West Confronts Communism:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. When courage and resolve won the dayVon Charles AshbacherGiven the tremendous social upheaval that took place as a consequence of the American involvement in Vietnam, the domino theory has fallen into disfavor. While most likely not true in the sixties, at the time of the Korean war it was probably true. Eastern Europe had fallen under the Soviet

grip and a civil war was fought in Greece that could have ended in a communist victory. The Marshall plan gave Western Europe new hope, but elsewhere communism appeared to be an attractive alternative to capitalism. The forces of Mao Zedong had just emerged victorious in China and colonialism was on its deathbed. When it appeared that the United States had no security interests in Korea and a quick armed victory by the forces of North Korea seemed certain, the attack came. Faced with the strength of the attack and the weakness of the South Korean forces, the choices were to accept a *fait accompli* on the Korean peninsula or commit huge amounts of American men and material. Fortunately for the world, the US and other western leaders chose to fight. However, the ultimate stalemate, which was in fact a victory, could easily have gone the other way. As is explained very well in this book, there were two points of crisis, the months right after the initial attack and the months after the massive Chinese entry into the war. A US response limited to diplomatic outrage would have emboldened many other moves by the communist forces around the world and other countries would have no doubt fallen into the communist orbit. However, while they were fighting it, the soldiers in Korea generally had no such grandiose thoughts. Their cause was to stay alive and to fight for their units and their pride. While the author does spend some time on the greater geopolitical considerations, most of the book describes the life and struggle of the ground forces. The chronicle of the incredible endurance and tenacity of the men who fought it out is an excellent account of what determined men can do. The author is a British veteran of the Korean campaign and that is no doubt the reason for the most glaring weakness of the book. While it is true that the British, Australian and other Commonwealth troops fought very well, they are portrayed as being the near saviors of many battles, never wavering in the face of enormous numbers of the enemy. Given that US losses were over 33,000 killed and over 100,000 wounded while the UK suffered slightly over 1,000 killed and nearly 3,000 wounded, it is clear who did the bulk of the fighting and dying. Some commentators have been presumptuous enough to argue that Ronald Reagan won the cold war as a consequence of his building up the US military. Such statements are absurd and neglect the courage and resolve of the architects of the Marshall Plan and the military forces committed to Korea. For subsequent events have clearly indicated that communism is an ideology that is all or none. It will either dominate the world or essentially cease to exist. Had the North won a resounding victory, it may have gone the other way, a thesis made clear in this generally excellent book.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A good international view of the War Von Tripp Ritter A good introductory text to the Korean War. This book will be especially interesting for American readers (like me,) as he focuses on the experience of the Commonwealth and other non-US/S. Korean forces. He also takes an even-handed look at the American military and government in the late forties/early fifties. The poor decision-making and ideology driven policy is well described. When it comes to the Commonwealth side, he tends to wear rose colored glasses. To be fair he also praises US elite units as well. I liked the way he blended international relations, battle description and domestic political action (in many countries) into a cohesive narrative. Some familiarity with Cold War history is helpful.

Kurzbeschreibung Now, on the fiftieth anniversary of the conflict, Korean War veteran and military historian Michael Hickey tells the full story of the first test by the Communist bloc of Western resolve. Set in the midst of international power politics alongside fears of a worldwide conflagration, the Korean War at its height involved rapid, large-scale troop movements over long distances as each side experienced both outstanding success and disaster. In addition to covering the dominant American involvement, Michael Hickey also sets in context the contributions many of them quite out of proportion to the size of their contingents of the other nations that answered the U.N. call and sent troops in response to the North Koreans surprise attack. Along with American troops, troops from Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Turkey, and elsewhere joined the effort, working together despite problems of culture and logistics. The Korean War recounts such masterstrokes as MacArthur's landing behind the enemy lines at Inchon, the drama of the glorious Glosters episode, and both collaboration and mutiny in the prisoner-of-war camps of either side. Drawing on many previously unused sources from several countries, including recently declassified documents, regimental archives, diaries, and interviews, Michael Hickey adds extensively to our knowledge of one of the most significant conflicts of modern times.

de Waged half a century ago, the three-year Korean War has been called "America's first Vietnam." It was also the first flash of fire in an otherwise cold war between the forces of capitalism and those of communism. Little was written about the war for many years, as if it were something best forgotten. Recently, books such as Martin Russ's controversial *Breakout: The Chosin Reservoir Campaign, Korea 1950* and Stanley Weintraub's *MacArthur's War: Korea and the Undoing of an American Hero* have brought renewed attention to the bloody ordeal. Michael Hickey offers a valuable contribution to the literature with *The Korean War*, which examines the conflict from the point of view of America's United Nations allies, an international force comprising contingents from Turkey, England, India, Australia, Canada, Belgium, and Norway, among other countries. Hickey, who served as a lieutenant in the British forces (he modestly describes himself as an "insignificant packhorse"), examines the debates surrounding UN involvement and the British government's fear of parting ways with the Truman administration over the best approach to containing North Korean and Chinese ambitions. Hickey acknowledges

events that are now much in the news, such as the South Korean military's murder of thousands of civilians thought to be sympathetic to the North. And he ventures the view that China was drawn somewhat unwillingly into the conflict after General Douglas MacArthur led a surprisingly effective counteroffensive deep into North Korean territory, uncomfortably close to the Chinese border. Yet Hickey is no apologist. He observes that the war was "well worth the effort," for with it world communism "was firmly confronted and rebuffed." Well written and carefully documented, his book offers a thoughtful history of a conflict that still haunts our time. --Gregory McNamee

Kurzbeschreibung

Now, on the fiftieth anniversary of the conflict, Korean War veteran and military historian Michael Hickey tells the full story of the first test by the Communist bloc of Western resolve. Set in the midst of international power politics alongside fears of a worldwide conflagration, the Korean War at its height involved rapid, large-scale troop movements over long distances as each side experienced both outstanding success and disaster. In addition to covering the dominant American involvement, Michael Hickey also sets in context the contributions many of them quite out of proportion to the size of their contingents of the other nations that answered the U.N. call and sent troops in response to the North Koreans surprise attack. Along with American troops, troops from Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Turkey, and elsewhere joined the effort, working together despite problems of culture and logistics. The Korean War recounts such masterstrokes as MacArthur's landing behind the enemy lines at Inchon, the drama of the glorious Glosters episode, and both collaboration and mutiny in the prisoner-of-war camps of either side. Drawing on many previously unused sources from several countries, including recently declassified documents, regimental archives, diaries, and interviews, Michael Hickey adds extensively to our knowledge of one of the most significant conflicts of modern times.