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Bombing Civilians: A Twentieth-Century History

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BOMBING *a twentieth-century history* CIVILIANS



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From Brand: New Press, The : Bombing Civilians: A Twentieth-Century History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bombing Civilians: A Twentieth-Century History:

10 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Truth about bombingBy Anthony J. BarrellThis is a remarkable collection of essays on various aspects of mass bombing of civilians in wartime. It has plenty of information about the strategy and tactics of aerial warfare - especially the destruction of Germany and Japan. It won't appeal to those who think anything the USA did/does to protect its interest is justifiable but anyone looking for clear, well argued analysis about this ongoing issue will find plenty to digest - it is well referenced but not written for academics only. Readers

who enjoy it might like to look at *Higher than Heaven* (1995) by Rick Tanaka and Tony Barrell *Higher Than Heaven: Japan, War and Everything*. 10 of 17 people found the following review helpful. knowledgeBy Cateni Romano This book should be adopted in all US schools, even if I am a bit skeptical about results! Why US people, apparently so decent and sensible, are so indifferent to others' sufferings? They don't want to know and if they know they do not care too much. So they repeat same 'mistakes' (=crimes?) over the years, covering them with same 'smoke curtain': it is astonishing how US leaders' words beginning, e.g., last century sound like today's! Freedom, democracy etc. on the one hand, BOMBS on the other. A long chain of painful, for the 'others', contradictions between talking and doing, perhaps the only real heritage from UK ancestors. At same time, congratulations to the knowledge and courage of the Authors producing such excellent texts: you can find them in US and UK only, not in Europe. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, with less bombs! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent essays By doug korty The essays in this book are excellent and provide a good material for the issues involved. In a war like Vietnam, bombing civilians was part of the injustice of the war itself. In WWII and similar situations, there was a debate within the military about bombing strategies. It made no sense in any way to bomb civilian targets but the "experts" who favored those strategies were successful in many cases. We should have learned from those errors but apparently did not. Midwest Independent Research, educational websites. History, mwir-history.blogspot. There are book lists, including the history of war.

Bombing Civilians examines a crucial question: why did military planning in the early twentieth century shift its focus from bombing military targets to bombing civilians? From the British bombing of Iraq in the early 1920s to the most recent policies in Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Lebanon, *Bombing Civilians* analyzes in detail the history of indiscriminate bombing, examining the fundamental questions of how this theory justifying mass killing originated and why it was employed as a compelling military strategy for decades, both before and since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Young, a professor of history at NYU, and Tanaka, of the Hiroshima Peace Institute, bring together eight essays by American, Japanese and European scholars on a disturbing subject: why has aerial warfare, beginning in WWI, emphasized civilian targets? Aerial bombing affects civilian morale, a vulnerable element in a country mobilized for total war. Tanaka demonstrates that during the interwar years the British considered air strikes in Iraq a cheaper, more "humane" way of maintaining imperial control than conventional ground operations. Ronald Schaeffer, Robert Moeller and Mark Selden each show that area bombardment was regarded, in particular by Britain and the U.S., as a shortcut to victory long after evidence ceased to support the belief. Selden goes so far as to assert that "[m]ass murder of civilians has been central to all subsequent U.S. wars." Discussing the morality of bombing, C.A.J. Coady is the only contributor who engages the moral principle of double effect: keeping collateral damage under the restraints of morality, reason and law. Still, this is better read as advocacy than scholarship. About the Author Marilyn B. Young is a professor of history at New York University. She has been a Guggenheim Fellow; is the author of numerous books, including *The Vietnam Wars, 1945–1990*; and co-edited *Iraq and the Lessons of Vietnam* (The New Press). Yuki Tanaka is Research Professor at Hiroshima Peace Institute of Hiroshima City University. Since the mid-1980s he has been concentrating his research on war crimes and is the author of several books, including *Japan's Comfort Women* and *Hidden Horrors*.