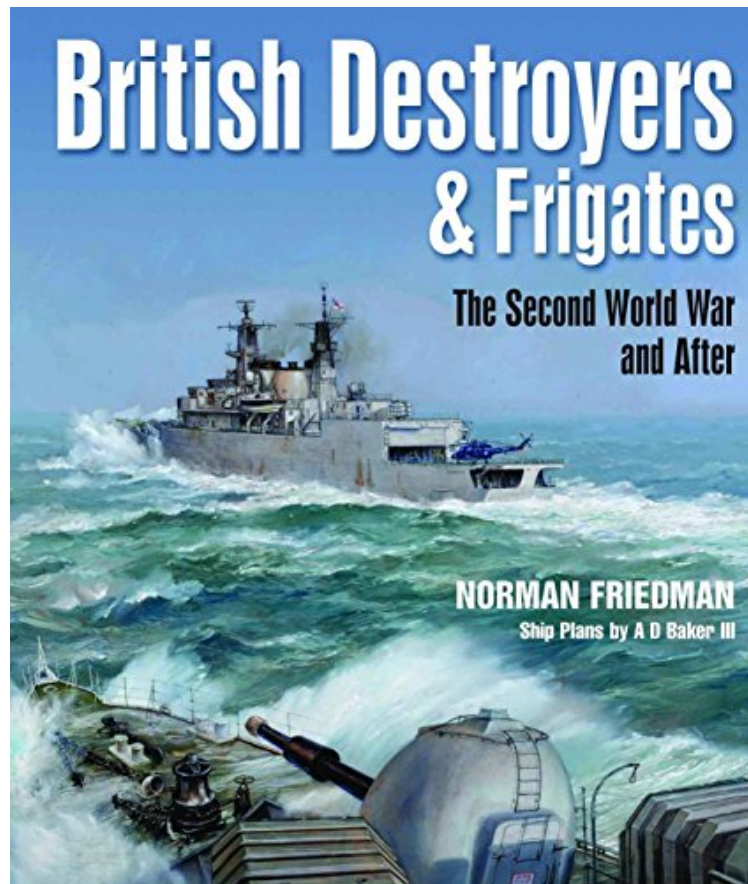


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British Destroyers and Frigates: The Second World War and After

Norman Friedman

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Norman Friedman : British Destroyers and Frigates: The Second World War and After before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised British Destroyers and Frigates: The Second World War and After:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Highly detailed design histories of the destroyers, escorts, and so forth from the 1930s through the 2000s. By Bayard B. Extraordinarily detailed discussions of the design histories of all the ships in the WW II and post-WW II periods. There are also numerous black and white period photos. The text also describes the political and financial environments in which the RN ships were designed and constructed. Cost was always a major consideration. Unfortunately for the ships' performance, things were worst in the 1950s and 1960s. At least in the 1930s and during WW II, decisions were made pretty much by people who understood that warships ultimately had to fight battles and that there was a limit to penny-pinching. This was all lost by the 1950s. Politicians arbitrarily imposed limits on ship construction costs with little regard to what they had to accomplish. This affected both the numbers that could be constructed and the capabilities of the individual classes of ships. A favorite political tactic was to prepare a "White Paper" that inevitably defined the needed number and capabilities of the ships

downward. While the design histories are outstanding, I felt there were a couple of annoyances. There are few tabulations of ship design and performance characteristics in the text. You have to turn to an Appendix for such information. Also, I frequently found it difficult to determine which design alternative was actually constructed. The book includes the ASW escorts of WW II as well as the various destroyer classes. After WW II, it was fascinating to read about all the permutations and combinations of ship designs that attempted to combine (usually conflicting) naval requirements onto a single hull while still being cheap to construct. Predictably, the efforts usually failed. Chapters 10 through 14 are littered with designs that were eventually cancelled by the political leadership for financial reasons.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *The Evolution of The British Navy From 1936* By Tony Marquise Jr. This book goes into the design of British destroyers from 1936 to the most modern designs. The book goes into extreme detail and is an essential book for those interested in this subject.

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Norman Friedman, a favorite author. *By Mumblin' Mark* I have read all of Norman Friedman's ship design histories and own several, as well as works on other topics. I was curious to compare British and United States destroyer designs with respect to machinery, armament and fire control. I own the updated "U.S. Destroyers" so purchasing this item was a natural choice. I haven't finished it yet (such detail takes time to absorb) but I'm happy with the purchase. My only gripe is a wish for more detailed wartime performance analysis of each design.

Other recommended books: "Naval Firepower", a study of big-gun fire control, "Desert Victory", the best technical analysis of the 1990-1991 Gulf War, "Network Centric Warfare", a history of naval communications.

Since World War II the old categories of destroyer and frigate have tended to merge, a process that author Norman Friedman traces back to the radically different Tribal-class destroyers of 1936. This volume covers the development of all the modern destroyer classes that fought in the war. It looks at the emergency programs that produced vast numbers of trade protection vessels—sloops, corvettes, and frigates—and analyzes the pressures that shaped the post-war fleet and, until recently, dominated design. Written by America's leading authority on naval construction, it is an objective but sympathetic view of the difficult economic and political environment in which British designers had to work, and benefits from the author's ability to compare and contrast the U.S. Navy's experience. Dr. Friedman is renowned for his ability to explain the policy and strategy changes that drive design decisions, and *British Destroyers Frigates* uses previously unpublished material to draw a new and convincing picture of British naval policy over the previous eight decades. Successful with enthusiasts and professionals alike from its first publication in 2006, this is the book's third edition.

About the Author **NORMAN FRIEDMAN** is one of the most prominent naval analysts in the United States. His work ranges from current strategic issues to naval history, but he is particularly known for his penetrating studies of warship design. A frequent visitor to British archives, he is as much at home dealing with the Royal Navy as American naval subjects.