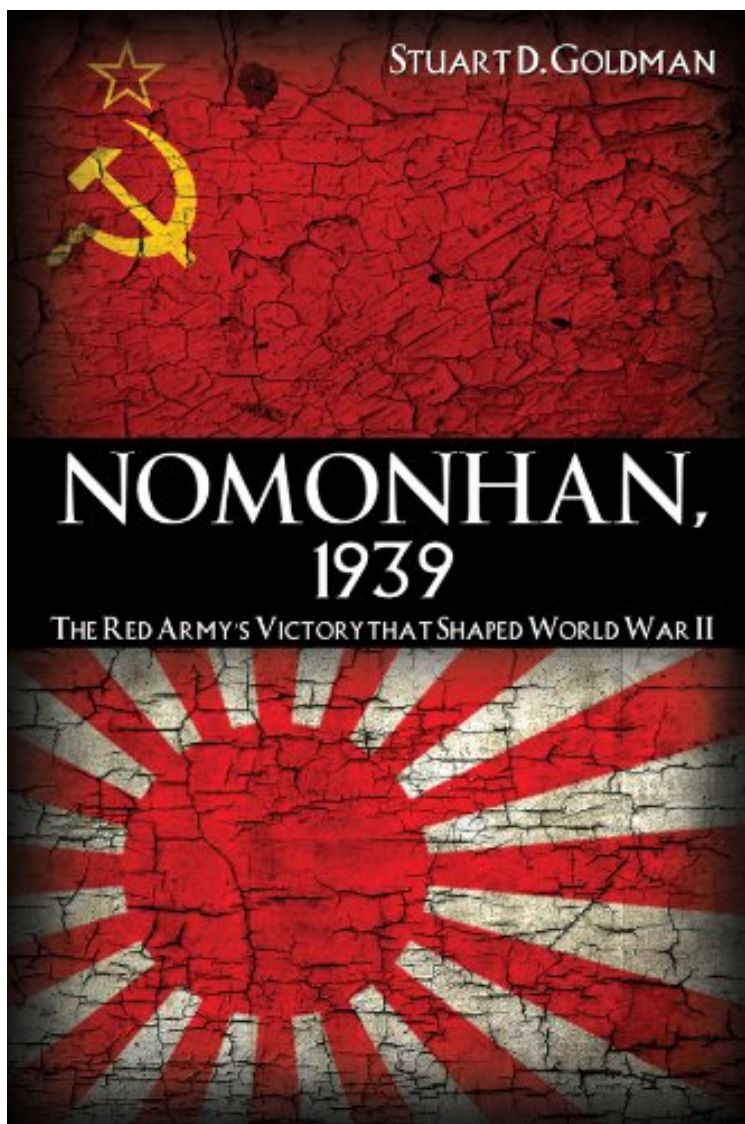


(Download free ebook) Nomonhan, 1939: The Red Army's Victory That Shaped World War II

## Nomonhan, 1939: The Red Army's Victory That Shaped World War II

*Stuart D. Goldman*

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**Stuart D. Goldman : Nomonhan, 1939: The Red Army's Victory That Shaped World War II** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nomonhan, 1939: The Red Army's Victory That Shaped World War II:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Important, little known pre-WWII battle By Thomas Adams In 1939 the Japanese army in Manchukuo attacked Soviet Mongolia. Over 3 months of escalating warfare, the Soviet Army

soundly defeated the Japanese. The Soviet general in charge was Georgy Zhukov, and this victory gave him the combat experience he later used to defeat the Nazis on the Soviet western front. When the Japanese northern attack failed, they turned to attack the south, to grab resources in Southeast Asia, and brought the USA into the war. I believe that in 1945 the Japanese remembered how badly they had been beaten by the Soviet army. The Soviets defeated the Japanese Kwangtung army again, overrunning all of Manchuria and Northern Korea in just 3 days in August 1945. This was the event - not the A-bombs - that led to the final surrender of Japan. So it turns out the USSR won WWII by defeating both the Nazis and the Japanese, with some help from the "free world." I would have given more stars because the story is important. But the writing is windy and academic - the book was originally a PhD thesis. I got the Audiobook, and don't care for the somewhat pompous tone of the narrator. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Goldman's work on the battle of Khalkhin ...By Zarg 4041I thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Goldman's work on the battle of Khalkhin Gol. He makes a strong case that the "most important battle of World War II that you probably never heard of" was indeed an important puzzle piece in understanding the events that swept the world into war in 1939. He focuses on the battle from the perspective of the great powers; USSR, Japan, Germany, England, etc. One disappointment for me was the almost total lack of consideration given to the Mongolian People's Republic (MPR) and the impact the battle had on internal developments of this Soviet satellite. The name of Choibalsan, the MPR's autocratic ruler, is only mentioned once, for example. Nevertheless, the Japanese threat on Mongolia's eastern borders was one of the reasons Moscow tightened its grip on the central Asian country. Flooding the country with Soviet troops enabled Stalin to carry out violent purges of Mongolian politicians, buddhist monks, and other dissidents that mirrored what was happening in the USSR. Often innocent Mongolians were tortured and executed on the dubious charge of spying for the Japanese. Prime minister Genden was ultimately arrested and shot in Moscow because, bucking Stalin's control, he had hinted at forming an alliance with the Japanese. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Fascinating ReadBy oldgrumpIn 2008 I was bitten by the WW II bug after watching the History Channel's excellent series Battle 360 USS Enterprise. I realized how little I knew about the war in the Pacific and ordered a couple of books from . And then some more, and more after that. Each book whetted my appetite for more. I have now ordered and read over one hundred books whose subject matter is the war in Asia and the Pacific between 1931 and 1945. Almost all were interesting and informative, and a few have stood out as exceptional. These I have now read twice. "Nomonhan, 1939" is the only one I have read three times. Goldman's thoroughly researched and tautly written description of this little-known but history-changing battle in the middle of nowhere in the days just before Hitler attacked Poland is spellbinding. His detailed descriptions of the geopolitical maneuverings of Russia, Germany, England, France, China, and Japan are fascinating and enlightening. Each nation has its own motivations and self interest in this dance macabre and I must admit I acquired an uneasy respect for Joseph Stalin. He was a ruthless dictator with no respect for human life, not even the lives of his own people, but he was politically and militarily savvy, and managed to avoid his greatest fear: a two front war - something none of the other major belligerents accomplished. In all the other books I've read Nomonhan is not mentioned or is only casually referenced. Goldman's book reveals this back story to the events leading up to the Nazi invasion of Poland and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. (He also points out the major contributions of Soviet spy Richard Sorge - which prompted me to further reading.) The author's speculations on the importance of this battle are intriguing. He presents a plausible scenario that, had this confrontation on the Manchurian-Mongolian border not happened, we might all be speaking German today. This is truly a fascinating book that gets my highest recommendation.

Stuart Goldman convincingly argues that a little-known, but intense Soviet-Japanese conflict along the Manchurian-Mongolian frontier at Nomonhan influenced the outbreak of World War II and shaped the course of the war. The author draws on Japanese, Soviet, and western sources to put the seemingly obscure conflict--actually a small undeclared war-- into its proper global geo-strategic perspective. The book describes how the Soviets, in response to a border conflict provoked by Japan, launched an offensive in August 1939 that wiped out the Japanese forces at Nomonhan. At the same time, Stalin signed the German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact, allowing Hitler to invade Poland. The timing of these military and diplomatic strikes was not coincidental, according to the author. In forming an alliance with Hitler that left Tokyo diplomatically isolated, Stalin succeeded in avoiding a two-front war. He saw the pact with the Nazis as a way to pit Germany against Britain and France, leaving the Soviet Union on the sidelines to eventually pick up the spoils from the European conflict, while at the same time giving him a free hand to smash the Japanese at Nomonhan. Goldman not only demonstrates the linkage between the Nomonhan conflict, the German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact, and the outbreak of World War II, but also shows how Nomonhan influenced Japan's decision to go to war with the United States and thus change the course of history. The book details Gen. Georgy Zhukov's brilliant victory at Nomonhan that led to his command of the Red Army in 1941 and his success in stopping the Germans at Moscow with reinforcements from the Soviet Far East. Such a strategy was possible, the author contends, only because of Japan's decision not to attack the Soviet Far East but to seize the oil-rich Dutch East Indies and attack Pearl Harbor instead. Goldman credits Tsuji Masanobu, an influential Japanese officer who instigated the Nomonhan conflict and survived the debacle, with urging his superiors not to take on the Soviets again in 1941, but

instead to go to war with the United States.

“Nomonhan, 1939 is a particularly noteworthy book on this four-month battle. Goldman’s writing style is en-gaging and absorbing. As a historian, he brings a unique ability to inform and entertain; his topic is complex and vast but he deftly navigates the reader in a clear and logical way. The book has extensive endnotes and a comprehensive bibliography. This reviewer would recommend the book very strongly to anyone, historians and casual readers alike, who wish to comprehend the intricacies of the Far East in the months prior to Japan’s entry into World War II.”?Michigan War Studies "Goldman provides a very thorough account from the side of Japan and the Soviet Union.”? Choice"Although extensively researched and heavily footnoted, this is not a book merely or even primarily for scholars. Goldman writes very well indeed. The historical arguments are clearly presented, the battles described brilliantly and the personalities evoked through use of primary sources. Nomonhan, 1939 is, unexpectedly, something of a page-turner.”? Asian of Books"Goldman masterfully untangles the complicated diplomatic context and battlefield maneuverings in a tour de force that shows how global diplomacy and WWII were affected by the outcome of hostilities in an obscure backwater of little strategic importance." ? The Japan Times“Goldman’s book provides food for thought while directing attention to an aspect of prewar diplomacy that is too often left out of the analysis of decision making by the many parties involved in shaping the coming war.”? H-Diplo, part of H-Net"Goldman’s book is for those with an interest in armor tactics, and World War II campaigns tactically and geo-strategically. A refreshing read.”? DCMilitary.com“Goldman should be commended for producing a well-written and well-balanced book. Nomonhan, 1939 not only depicts this Russo–Japanese conflict in a lucid and vivid manner, but also offers a greater contextualization of it than has any previous account. For these merits, it is highly recommended reading for anyone who is interested in the prewar Russo–Japanese rivalry and its global impact, and most notably for students and scholars who are looking for a succinct and reliable account of the dramatic events in Nomonhan.”? Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs“All in all, this volume has the potential to become the book of the year in history/military science. It is very well researched, logically argued and presents the topic in an organic way, looking at Soviet foreign and military policies’ western and eastern components not as disjointed parts but as the two sides of the same coin...A tour de force that should be a compulsory reading for historians, military leaders and that part of the general public that is interested in understanding the deeper undercurrents of the big global conflict that we call by the name World War II.”? Journal of Eurasian Studies“For anyone interested in the military history of the last century, in general, or the background to the beginning of World War II, in particular, Goldman has produced a work which should be required reading. Based on a wide range of English, Russian and Japanese language primary and secondary source materials, the book is a very interesting and thought-provoking analysis of, as Goldman puts it, ‘the most important World War II battle most people have never heard of’ (p. 5). Rightly or wrongly, most people in the West, if they know the battle at all, identify it through the Russian or Mongolian version of its name?Khalkin Gol?rather than the Japanese version used in the title of the work?Nomonhan. Divided into seven chapters?and a number of sub-sections within each chapter?Goldman’s book not only demonstrates his mastery of the material to hand, but also great thought in what is an admirably balanced and even-handed account of a much too-long neglected battle in the history of events leading to the outbreak of World War II in 1939.”? Europe-Asia Studies“This book is well researched, using both Japanese and Russian sources. Goldman does an excellent job tying together the various events such as the Nomonhan battle, the Soviet Nonaggression Pact with Germany and the start of World War II...This is a must read for all those with an interest in World War II and subsequent events.”? The Past in “Stuart D. Goldman has not only written a powerful account of the Red Army’s lopsided victory over Imperial Japan but also included the impact the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact had on the war, paving the way for Hitler to invade Poland a few days after hostilities at Nomonhan had ended.”? WWII History“Compelling.”? Publishers Weekly online review“Knowing what the “little war” triggered ? and Dr. Goldman justifies his claims ? makes reading the detail of his beautifully-crafted book even more compelling. And he gives context which is important to us today in understanding Asia. Great book!”? Defense Foreign Affairs Special Analysis"This is a brilliant battle study highlighting the military blunders and political decisions, actions, and blunders." ? Military Officer Magazine, December 2012"Nomonhan, 1939 is Stuart Goldman’s brilliant military and political history of ‘the first instance in the modern age of limited war between great powers.’ Students of military and political history will find this book to be a valuable resource for their understanding of the dynamics of military and political decisions that directly impacted World War II. And it makes for exciting reading.”? New Maine Times Book About the AuthorStuart D. Goldman is a scholar in residence at the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research in Washington, D.C. From 1979-2009, he was the senior specialist in Russian and Eurasian political and military affairs at the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. A resident of Rockville, MD, he holds a PhD from Georgetown University.