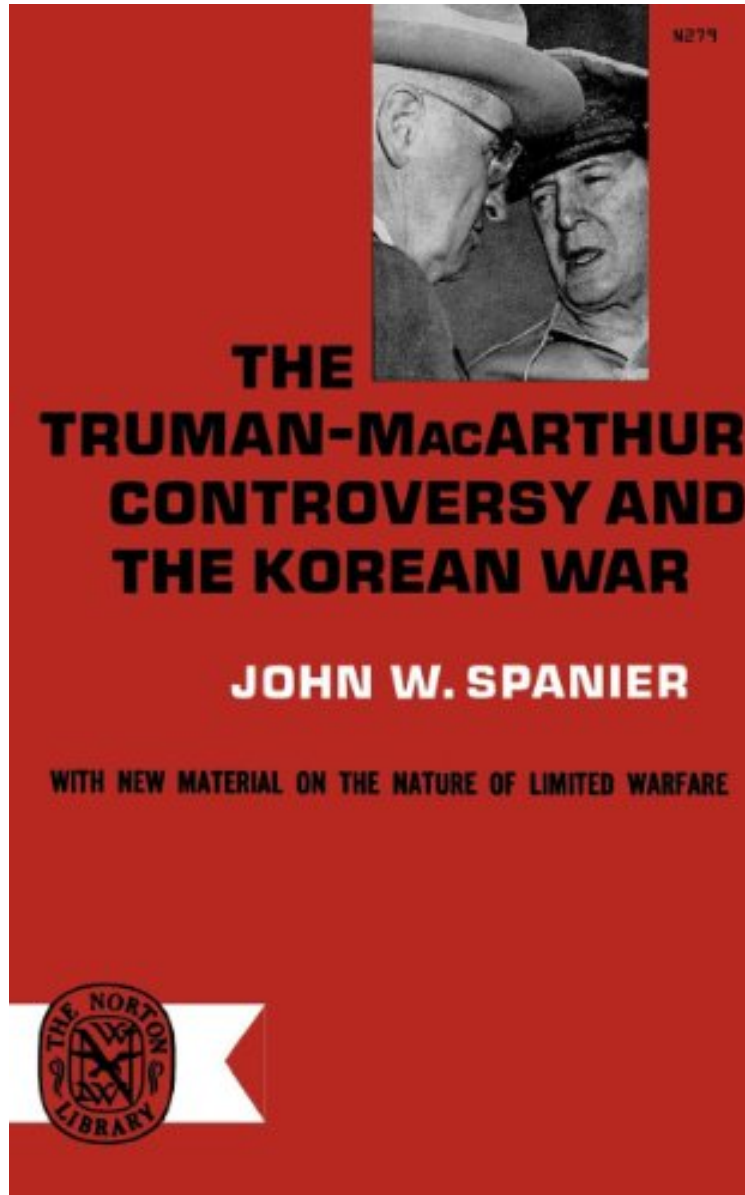


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John W. Spanier

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John W. Spanier : The Truman- MacArthur Controversy and the Korean War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Truman- MacArthur Controversy and the Korean War:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Truman and McArthurBy James R. GallagherThe book provided a detailed description of the reasons why Truman and McArthur did not see eye to eye and why Truman had to eventually fire him. It provides good insight to both the personal relationship as well as the politics behind each of their points of view.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent AnalysisBy Mr. EinsteinThis book is a detailed, mostly political account of the Korean War and how Harry Truman and Douglas MacArthur dealt with it via their respective responsibilities. It's an objective account, letting the reader to decide who made the most serious errors in judgment and policy. Overall, the hugest strategic mistake was the invasion of North Korea. Credit MacArthur with that one, even though most Americans thought it was a good idea at the time - eliminate the bastards so they can't invade the South again in the future. The book's fourteen chapters are divided into three parts: Part 1 "The Korean War, June to November 1950: The Period Of North Korean Aggression; Part 2 "The Korean War, December 1950 to April, 1951: The Period Of Chinese Communist Intervention; and Part 3 "The MacArthur Hearings." Any Korean War buff will find it fascinating reading.

"The order not to bomb the Yalu bridges was the most indefensible and ill-conceived decision ever forced on a field commander in our nation's history....I will always believe that if the United States had issued a warning to the effect that any entry of the Chinese Communists in force into Korea would be considered an act of international war against the United States, that the Korean War would have been terminated with our advance north." General Douglas MacArthur in *Reminiscences* (1964) thus recalled the unyielding position he took in April, 1951, when President Truman relieved him of all his commands in the Far East for publicly opposing the policies of the United States government. Professor John W. Spanier examines the central issue of this crisis--the grave challenge to the traditional concept of civilian supremacy, resting in the President of the United States, over the military, that was posed by MacArthur's stand. He makes it clear that this controversy was not unique, that it stemmed not only from MacArthur's personality but also from tremendous pressures to change a "limited war" into a total effort for complete victory.