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Bryan R. Gibby

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Bryan R. Gibby : The Will to Win: American Military Advisors in Korea, 1946-1953 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Will to Win: American Military Advisors in Korea, 1946-1953:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. America's Role as Midwife at the Birth of the ROK Army By A. A. Nofia summary from the review on StrategyPage.Com "An account of the evolution of the Army of the Republic of Korea from its creation in the early years of the Cold War through to the end of the Korean War, and of the American

advisors who helped to shape it. Military historian Gibbs, who has also contributed to *Their War for Korea: American, Asian, and European Combatants and Civilians, 1945-1953*, does a good job of sorting through the complex issues affecting the new army, ignorant American military leaders, poor financing, numerous errors and false starts, and a willingness to blame the "ROKs" for reverses and ignore their successes. As Gibbs follows the ups and downs of this new army, he notes that even early in the war many units performed with considerable effectiveness, and that well before the 1953 armistice the ROKs were doing some of the heaviest in the war. Yet histories hardly ever mention their role, while often inflating that of some of the smaller U.N. contingents. There is much detail in this work on the "how" and the "how not" to build an army. Although *The Will to Win* deals with events now more than a half century in the past, is a very relevant work, given recent efforts to create new armies in both Afghanistan and Iraq more or less from scratch, reminding us of the importance of the past to the present. For the full review, see [StrategyPage.Com](#) 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well Paced Read on the Korean War By Graywolf64 Normally I don't engage in much reading about the Korean War but this book provides a great deal of insight into the mindset of the American Military Officer on the ground and the bureaucratic apparatus that is the Department of the Army and Department of Defense man train and equip foreign Armies in our own model. Having served with the ROKA in modern times I can see echoes of the cultural challenges and the advancement who's seeds were planted during the period after ROK independence and the Korean War. The author does a great job capturing readers interest and delivering a wealth of facts without bogging down his narrative or losing the interest of non-"hard core" Korean War fans. I look forward to his follow on work.

“Gibby’s argument for the central role of the KMAG (Korean Military Advisory Group) in the development of the ROK army and for that army’s central role, first in defeating guerrillas in the South prior to June 1950 and then in containing the conventional Communist attacks after that date, is developed with meticulous care and goes well beyond anything currently in the literature on the Korean War.”—William Stueck, author of *The Korean War: An International History and Rethinking the Korean War: A New Diplomatic and Strategic History*