

THE DECISIVE BATTLES OF THE WESTERN WORLD AND THEIR INFLUENCE UPON HISTORY, VOLUME 1 pdf

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Decisive Battles of the Western World and Their Influence Upon History, Vol. 3: From the American Civil War to the End of the Second World War J. F. C. Fuller Hardcover.

May 14, Simon Mcleish rated it really liked it Originally published on my blog here in August Its editing by John Terraine into two volumes concentrating on those battles fought in Europe and the Middle East has made the work a great deal more accessible. The way that Terraine has done this is to replace the missing sections with much shorter summaries of his own. The book in general is structured to contain alternating "chronicles", describing the events following one battle and leading up to the next, with detailed analysis of the mayor battles between Salamis and the Normandy landings. The concept of the book is a fairly old-fashioned one. Historians at the moment tend to assume that warfare never actually decided anything; a war is supposed to have an inevitable outcome pre-determined by economic factors. Even if, say, Napoleon had won the battle of Waterloo - as he could fairly easily have done - his eventual defeat would have only been postponed. Fuller was well qualified as a military analyst, being one of those who, during the First World War, saw the significance of the tank and whose ideas were influential in the German development of blitzkrieg. His experience tells him that no general, no matter how brilliant,. Even if the generals never made mistakes, they are always at the mercy of an incomplete knowledge of enemy intentions. Fuller too has faults, though he avoids some of the worst ones into which any kind of historian can fall. One is an unquestioning attitude to sources, which can lead to such absurdities as a statement I heard on TV the other day, that the US entered the First World War as a moral duty, to "safeguard democracy". The other is that which M. Finley has spent much of his career attacking in ancient historians, a blindness to anything outside their speciality. Fuller is aware that he is not just concerned with strategy and tactics, weapons and equipment. He also manages to avoid the trap that many British establishment figures fell into after the Second World War - though Fuller could hardly be described as establishment - of thinking that Churchill was to be praised as a god. He is extremely critical of both Churchill and Roosevelt, whose political decisions he believed extended the war by some time and led inevitably to the Russian triumph in Eastern Europe and the Cold War. One attitude Fuller shared with many other historians of the twentieth century is an anti-religious bias. This stems from the belief many non-scientists have that science has disproved religion. The book ends with a fairly accurate prophecy of how the Cold War would develop - Fuller died long before this became obvious. The developments he did not see were the ability of guerrillas and minor powers to hold out against the major nations - Vietnam and Nicaragua for the US, Afghanistan for the USSR - and the rise of China as a major power.

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This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. January This article possibly contains original research. Please improve it by verifying the claims made and adding inline citations. Statements consisting only of original research should be removed. July This article includes a list of references , but its sources remain unclear because it has insufficient inline citations. Please help to improve this article by introducing more precise citations. While battles fought in modern times are comparatively well-documented, the figures from those in pre-Renaissance times are generally believed to be exaggerated by contemporary chroniclers. The candidates[edit] Salamis , September 28? Greek triremes had a crew of about while their small penteconters had 50 oarsmen. Cape Ecnomus , BC. The battle itself involved around ships and , personnel from both sides. Total casualties were about 40,â€”50,, of which roughly 10, were on the Roman side and the rest from the Carthaginian side. Red Cliffs , winter of AD. A decisive naval engagement between the forces of Cao Cao and the allied forces of Liu Bei and Sun Quan , this battle resulted in the defeat of Cao Cao and confirmed the separation of China into northern and southern halves, the Yangtze River Valley as a border. Between , and , personnel participated in this battle. Battle of the Masts , AD. The Byzantines hastily attacked, resulting in a decisive victory for the Arabs. Emperor Constans II barely escaped with his life, and this battle marked the emergence of Arabs on the Mediterranean. Yamen , March 19, Lake Poyang , August 30â€”October 4, Claimed to be the largest naval battle in terms of personnel, with a reported , sailors and soldiers involved. Jutland , May 31â€”June 1, The German fleet consisted of 16 dreadnought and 6 pre-dreadnought battleships, 5 battle cruisers , 11 light cruisers , and 61 fleet torpedo boats, while the numerically superior British fleet was composed of 28 battleships, 9 battle cruisers, 8 armoured cruisers , 26 light cruisers, 78 destroyers, 1 minelayer , and 1 seaplane carrier. Britain lost more ships and twice as many men as Germany, although ultimately the outcome was beneficial for the British as the battle resulted in the successful containment of the German fleet. In terms of total tonnage of ships involved, this was the largest surface battle. The largest aircraft carrier battle in history, involving fifteen U. In terms of tonnage, the U. Leyte Gulf , October 23â€”26, The largest in terms of tonnage of ships in the combined orders of battle, if not necessarily in terms of tonnage of the ships engaged; it is also the largest in terms of the tonnage of ships sunk, and in terms of the size of the area within which the component battles took place. The United States Third and Seventh Fleets, including some Australian warships, comprised 8 large aircraft carriers , 8 light carriers , 18 escort carriers , 12 battleships , 24 cruisers , destroyers and destroyer escorts , many other ships, and around 1, aircraft. They won a decisive victory over Japanese forces, which consisted of 1 large aircraft carrier , 3 light carriers , nine battleships, 19 cruisers, 34 destroyers and several hundred aircraft. The opposing fleets carried a total of about , personnel. Leyte Gulf consisted of four major subsidiary battles: These are counted together by virtue of their all being caused by the Japanese operation Sho-Go, which was aimed at destroying the Allied amphibious forces involved in the invasion of Leyte. However, the individual battles were separated by distances as great as two hundred miles, as well as several days time, from the first submarine action to the Japanese withdrawal.

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While battles fought in modern times are comparatively well-documented, the figures from those in pre-Renaissance times are generally believed to be exaggerated by contemporary chroniclers. The candidates Edit Salamis , September 28? Greek triremes had a crew of about while their small penteconters had 50 oarsmen, which would suggest that approximately , sailors, soldiers and marines took part. Red Cliffs , winter AD A decisive naval engagement between forces of Cao Cao and the allied forces of Liu Bei and Sun Quan resulted in the defeat of Cao Cao and confirmed the separation between southern China and northern China along the Yangtze River Valley. Between , and , soldiers participated in the engagement. Yamen , fought March 19, ; saw the fall of the Song empire during the conquest of China by the Yuan Dynasty of Mongolia. Lepanto , 7 October The forces of the Holy League inflicted a crushing defeat on the Ottoman fleet. This was the last major naval battle in the Western world to be fought entirely or almost entirely between rowing vessels, and one of the earliest for which there is a reliable count of ships and personnel involved. Around , personnel took part in the battle. The Turkish fleet lost more than vessels and suffered at least 20, casualties. Jutland , May 31â€”June 1, The largest battle in terms of tonnage of ships engaged and in terms of the total tonnage of ships involved in a single action. The largest surface action and the largest ship-to-ship action, in terms of the tonnage of the ships engaged. Material losses were heavier on the British side, but the High Seas Fleet only narrowly escaped destruction and never again risked a decisive encounter with the Grand Fleet. Philippine Sea , June 19â€”20, The largest aircraft carrier battle in history, the largest single naval battle of World War II, and arguably the largest in history, involving 15 US fleet and light carriers, nine Japanese carriers, other warships and some 1, aircraft. Leyte Gulf , October 23â€”26, The largest in terms of tonnage of ships in the combined orders of battle, if not necessarily in terms of tonnage of the ships engaged. Also the largest in terms of the tonnage of ships sunk, and in terms of the size of the area within which the component battles took place. The United States 3rd and 7th Fleets , including some Australian warships, comprised 8 large aircraft carriers , 8 light carriers , 18 escort carriers , 12 battleships , 24 cruisers , destroyers and destroyer escorts , many other ships, and around 1, aircraft. They won a decisive victory over Japanese forces, which consisted of four aircraft carriers, nine battleships, 19 cruisers, 34 destroyers and several hundred aircraft. The opposing fleets carried a total of about , men. Leyte Gulf consisted of four major subsidiary battles: These are counted together by virtue of their all being caused by the Japanese operation Sho-Go, which was aimed at destroying the Allied amphibious forces involved in the invasion of Leyte. However, the individual battles were separated by distances as great as two hundred miles.

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