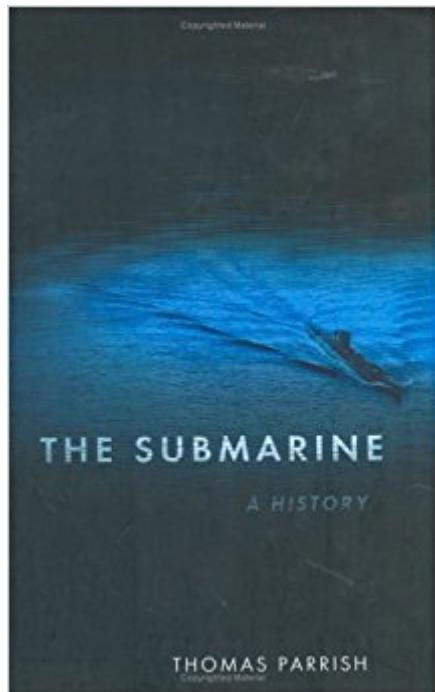


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The Submarine: A History



Synopsis

For centuries people dreamed of navigating under the sea, but it was not until the beginning of the twentieth century that inventors succeeded in developing practical submarines. With the coming of World War I, nations saw something entirely new in war: the deadly effectiveness of underwater craft, with German U-boats threatening to starve Britain and bringing the United States into the war, thus proving underwater battles more important than the great battles fought on land. A generation later U-boats repeated the struggle in the Atlantic, while in the Pacific U.S. submarines literally put Japan out of business. Then in the nuclear age, the true submarine became the most powerful weapon of war ever created—the weapon that paradoxically kept the peace. Now, military historian Thomas Parrish tells the story of those who first dreamed of underwater ships; of the practical and ingenious inventors and engineers who created and developed the submarine; of visionary naval strategists; of famous skippers on all sides; steel-nerved men like America's Dick O'Kane, Germany's Reinhard Hardegen; who wielded this weapon; of the famous and infamous deeds of boats like the U-20, the Wahoo, and the nuclear-powered Nautilus and George Washington; and of the tragedies that befell boats like the American Thresher and the Russian Kursk. Parrish's compelling narrative blends strategy, high policy, technology, heroism, and perilous adventure.

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Customer Reviews

This readable if uneven history of the submarine takes the subject from David Bushnell's Turtle,

which carried out the first submarine combat mission in 1776, to the Russian Kursk, whose explosion in 2000 was the latest of many disasters in the accident-prone Soviet and Russian fleet. In between are basically four episodes in the creation of undersea warfare. Late-19th-century developments culminated with engineer John Philip Holland's dual-propulsion system. By WWI, the unrestricted submarine warfare that was supposed to win the war for Germany lost it by bringing in the United States. In WWII, U-boats were again nearly decisive, and the U.S. subs in the Pacific actually were. Finally, in the postwar era, the nuclear submarine carrying ballistic missiles has become the ultimate deterrent. Parrish's coverage in each period varies among technical developments (a plethora of faulty torpedoes), combat operations (including strategy), heroic captains (e.g., *Mush* Morton of *Wahoo*) and inventors (Holland, Rickover and Raborn, the father of Polaris). Add a certain number of glitches (the British X-craft used dropped mines, not ones attached by divers against *Tirpitz*), but also add in smooth and even witty writing, and the result is a most respectable book. It may not be the seasoned experts' ideal, but it should set the new armchair submariner sailing off into the extensive and up-to-date bibliography. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Parrish synthesizes voluminous naval literature on the submarine in this fine popular presentation. After dispensing with the submarine's imaginative but primitive antecedents, such as David Bushnell's *Turtle* of 1776, Parrish lays down the technical advances that designer John Holland pulled together to produce the first truly functional submarines a century ago. However, navies were hard pressed to make use of these strange vessels, which were small, slow, and vulnerable if caught on the surface, until World War I revealed their predatory potential. Through descriptions of particularly dramatic or diplomatically significant sinkings, Parrish illustrates the submarine's crucial influence on that war, and subsequently on World War II and the cold war. Within each historical metamorphosis of the submarine, up to its contemporary incarnation as a nuclear-armed nemesis that can destroy an entire country, Parrish showcases famous submariners, including aggressive personalities such as Karl Donitz, "Mush" Morton, and Hyman Rickover. To a minutia-ridden subject, Parrish brings a superb general treatment that will attract naval-history readers.

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Bought this for my High School Cousin who is 15 years old, she is obsessed - raves about this book!

great book

There aren't many books that exemplify intelligence and character in young teens. Even more so, the heroes rarely have such candid dialoge or engaging vocabulary. This is honest description of todays suburban youth is entertaining and captivatingly humorous. The content is comparable to C.D. Paynes Youth in Revolt, though not nearly as exciting and nerve racking. Highly recommended to any one who enjoys unlikeable heroes and has experienced a dysfunctional posh cliche childhood.

Review: "The Submarine" by Thomas Parrish Viking-2004-576 pages including notes and large bibliography Over the past ten years, many submarine books have passed by my reading chair. There has been a fair mix of fiction and non-fiction. The fictional books are needed to keep a level of interest and fun going through the much tougher reading non-fiction works. Some of the fictional books are keepers. All of the non-fiction works have lasting value and are keepers. Some of these later genre of books are ingrained in my mind as worthy of greater accolades than they receive in that brief period before and after the publishing date. In my opinion, "The Submarine" falls into that more worthy class. There are two books that are recent that tell the whole story of submarines and retain the readers interest throughout. "The Navy Times Book of Submarines" and "The Submarine" are those two works. Certainly you must say that Clay Blair's works and Norman Friedman's technical works are very important but in ways that handle a specific time frame or the more technological advances in submarine building. Parrish does a superior job of research and his bibliography of 10 pages indicates his devotion to detail and accuracy. Yet the book is full of anecdotes and facts that were new to me and added great interest. The book traces early developmental history to the Holland versus Lake early days through the battles with Admiral Rickover and Electric Boat and Congress., I never tire of hearing tales of the wily Rickover or of the work done by "Red" Raborn in the early Polaris missile program. All areas are covered from the Turtle through the USS Virginia SSN 774. The books should be included in every serious submarine historian's library and referred to often. Although my library now resides in storage and is waiting it's placement as the cornerstone of a planned museum's library, this book will stay here and join my retained works that form the core of my knowledge. Those being Silent Victory, Thunder Below, Submarine Operations in WWII, Friedman's 2-volume work, United States Submarines, Admiral Lockwood's books, Blind Man's Bluff, Hitler's U-Boat Wars and a few others. My thanks to Thomas Parrish for his devotion and for helping me fulfill the Creed of U.S. Submariner Veterans, which is to

"perpetuate the memory of our shipmates."(...)

This book was quite good ! Oliver is such a cool and quirky kid which makes him and the book so unique. The only thing I would change is the ending because the plot gets a bit weird and out of context in my opinion towards the end. Otherwise, it's a great book! I have tried to find other ones that resembles Submarine with no success because it's so unique and special!

I know that you shouldn't compare a novel to the movie based on it, but I can't help it. Normally I find that the source material is better, but this was an exception. I gave up on the book about halfway because it was starting to ruin my memory of the movie, which I love. The protagonist in the novel is more sinister and unfeeling than I expected, and that changed my attitude towards the story.

This incredible first novel feels so insightful, so believable, so real that you almost have to wonder if Dunthorne hasn't pulled a Dragnet on us -- the story being real, and the names changed to protect the innocent. In many ways, this is among the best coming of age novels there is.

Very excited to see Ayoade's interpretation of the story and the tale had some very hilarious parts. I literally laughed out loud. Very dark, dry, witty humor at its best. A fun, quick read that'll leave you wanting closure for sure!

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