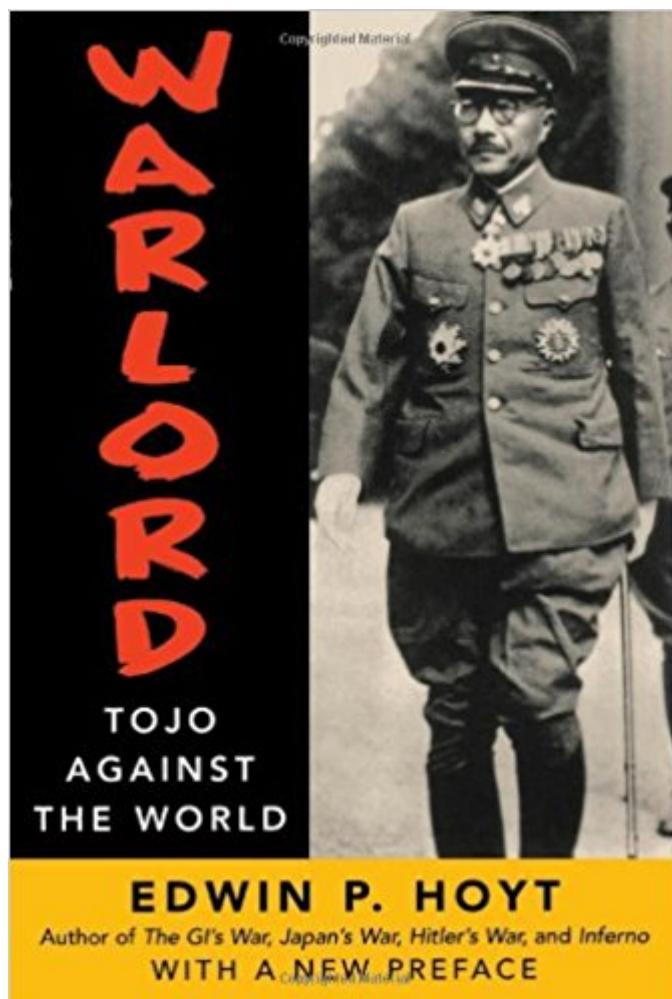


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# Warlord: Tojo Against The World



## Synopsis

Vilified in the West as the Japanese equivalent of Hitler, Hideki Tojo (1884-1948) was in fact cut from very different cloth. Lacking the skills and charisma of a statesman, fueled by no apocalyptic visions, Tojo was an unimaginative soldier whose primary goals were to establish Japan's military strength and serve his emperor. Yet his determination and ambition caused him to participate in the seizure of power when the military took over the government. WWII scholar Hoyt, a resident of Japan, relies on new sources and remarkable insight to show how Tojo and the leaders of Japan's armed forces gained control of the country, but how ambition ultimately proved to be Tojo's undoing.

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## Customer Reviews

An all but forgotten figure even in Japan, Hideki Tojo was second only to Adolf Hitler as a symbol of Axis villainy during WW II. Hoyt ( Japan's War ) describes Tojo's ascendancy to power in the Japanese army, and his roles as prime minister and minister of War, Armaments and Education, in which he led Japan into the war that devastated the country. As Hoyt points out, Tojo's fall in 1944 (immediately after the U.S. victory on Saipan and just before a failed attempt on his life) came about because he had assumed so many responsibilities that he was blamed for Japan's failures in the war. Hoyt concludes with a straightforward account of Tojo's arrest by U.S. military authorities, his trial in Japan for war crimes (which included the charge that he approved mistreatment of Allied prisoners of war) and his execution. Though Tojo emerges here as a colorless person, this account of his career increases our knowledge of the relationship between the Imperial Army, Emperor Hirohito and the Japanese government. Illustrations. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information,

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In this first English-language biography of Tojo in almost 30 years, Hoyt, best-selling popularizer of history, now writes a succinct biography of Japan's war and prime minister who is generally held responsible for the country's involvement in World War II. Using diaries, archival materials, and family interviews, Hoyt places Tojo and his actions within the context of Japan's peculiar political situation. According to Hoyt, the military controlled the government, and Tojo was merely one of the cabal that pushed Japan into war. The Tojo revealed here is a master manipulator who let himself be misled by junior officers, a ruthless plotter, a man loyal to the emperor who almost betrayed him in the end. Readers will get a clear picture of what led Japan into war and of Tojo's place in it. A valuable purchase for public and academic libraries. For another view of Hoyt's work, see *The Last Kamikaze* , p. 91.--Ed.- Katharine L. Kan, Aiea P.L., HawaiiCopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

There are not a whole lot of facts about Tojo out there. As a major figure during World War Two, you'd think the history book shelves would be loaded about Tojo. Not so. Perhaps the reason is that who cares anymore? Thank goodness Hoyt has taken time to uncover his Tojo account and has somewhat filled the void. Although much more could be written...about Tojo's childhood,family, friendships, activities and achievements. Tojo certainly doesn't attract the interest of a Churchill or Lincoln!! And he is not venerated by any Japanese authors that I know of!! I found the book about as interesting as a college history lecture on a June afternoon, with the windows closed. Factual, but ho-hum. Hoyt should have been turbo-charged.

Hideki Tojo led Japan's government from late 1941 to 1944. He resigned after the battle for the Marianas. In my view he was not the smartest of leaders, he ignored the vast disparity in economic potential between the United States and Japan. He preferred to believe that Japanese spirit could carry the day. Further, he ignored the vast disparity in population between Japan and the United States and Great Britain, nevermind China. Even with the war clearly lost, he attempted to hold on to his power, and continue the pointless struggle. I guess his ultimate failure was his attempted suicide, he was not even able to end his life, when the allies came for him.

Great

Filled in a lot of info about the political situation in Japan, at that time, and how Tojo operated within it. Fairly well written but very informative and enlightening. Quick read.

I had read an earlier biography some years ago, and was looking for it when I came across this volume. A good, factual account of Tojo's rise to power, it also covers the political situation within the Japanese military leading up to, and during WW2. It is far from an apology, being instead a well constructed insight into a period many Japanese tend to ignore, and many foreigners would rather forget. Tojo rose to power in no small part due to his abilities as an organiser, and through his position in the Kwangtung Army. However, the book offers the opinion that he was as much a victim of the flows of policy as an instigator, and suggests he was of limited intelligence. Notwithstanding, he was the prime orchestrator of many Japanese atrocities, and was deservedly hung as a war criminal. It provides insights into Japanese Strategic thinking and planning, and the machinations behind the scenes. A good read for those interested in this controversial period, and most certainly not revisionist.

This is a well researched and presented look at Tojo from youth to his execution. It reveals a lot about his motivations and his outlook on government. It's well worth your time to take a closer look at Tojo.

While I am very comfortable discussing WWII operations in the Pacific, I must admit that I have not spent much time studying the individual Japanese leaders. Because of this, I don't have a point of comparison from which to judge this book; thus, I give it four stars instead of five. Regardless of the number of stars, this book is well worth your time. While the author could be accused of trying to rehabilitate Tojo's legacy/reputation, he effectively raises enough questions about Tojo's motivations, and the general Japanese political environment from 1936 on to make any serious student pause and give second thought about the subject. The author has motivated me to study this subject further; thus, has done what any author attempts to - motivate his audience. Again, this book is well worth your time.

It is a curious truth that while much is popularly known about Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, and other European "bad boy" potentates, little if anything is popularly known about the architect and antagonist of the Japanese military state, Hideki Tojo. Yet he was Japan's premier for the greater part of World War Two, the front man for the militarists who had seized real control of the

government in the mid 1930s. Unlike either Hitler or Mussolini, Tojo did not escape the judgment of the victorious allies, for he was one of the relatively few Japanese tried for war crimes after the war, and was hanged in disgrace and humiliation. This, then, is an absorbing story of the ultimate true believer hung on the petard of his own fanaticism. Renowned historian Edwin P. Hoyt does an admirable job detailing the rise and corruption of this enigmatic and often phlegmatic leader, a modern day samurai who simply did not understand the tenor of his times, and who was instrumental in ushering Japan into a disastrous and suicidal conflict with the United States, even though a number of authorities with Japan such as Yamamoto warned an all-out war with the Americans would not likely be successful. Hoyt draws from an impressive array of little known documents from Japanese military archives, and from a number of recorded interviews with Japanese-American guards who came to know Tojo quite well during his captivity and trial at the infamous Sagumo Prison just outside Tokyo. Hoyt takes incredible care detailing Tojo's rapid rise to become the outspoken and imperious front-man for the militarists within the Army, those young but career-oriented officers seeking the rapid expansion of the burgeoning Japanese empire throughout Asia to fulfill what they felt to be Japan's destiny based on their own racist and fascist notions about the Japanese being a master race naturally destined to rule their part of the world. Hoyt describes the early successes in the first few months of the war, when Tojo's stock was rising and his prestige was rising as well. The book also details his hopes and tentative operational plans regarding an eventual invasion of the American mainland, and this more than anything indicates just how provincial and misinformed he was regarding the power, strengths, and capabilities of his opponents. Soon, however, the victories turned to defeats, and in a stunning string of setbacks and losses the course of the war changed fatefully, as did Japan's dreams of empire and future fortune. Eventually all this caught up with Tojo, and he was forced from power in the summer of 1944. Eventually, he was arrested by the Allies, tried, and hanged. This is an provocative look at a man who balanced the surging forces of the Army, Navy and civil authorities during the war, but who profoundly and fatefully misunderstood the nature of the forces of the 20th century, and so was personally responsible for the death of millions of combatants and noncombatants, and who by prosecuting the war in such a savage way also played a key role in bringing the sting of the Allies wrath home to the people to Japan. I recommend this book for anyone interested in learning more about this tragic and misguided figure that was so instrumental in the unfolding of the Pacific part of the Second World War.

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