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When Tigers Fight: The Story of the Sino-Japanese War, 1937- 1945

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Joseph C. Goulden has attempted to write a military-political study of the Korean war with mixed success. He has really tried to do too much by including battle studies, diplomacy, and domestic politics in a single volume.

His analysis of military operations is consequently far from complete. For example, he devotes much attention to the Inchon landings and the retreat of the X Corps but virtually ignores the campaigns of 1951. Moreover, he says little about the roles of the Navy and Air Force. At best he provides a general overview of military operations spiced with a few vignettes.

Goulden is much better in describing the political and diplomatic aspects of the war. He gives an excellent detailed description of the Truman-MacArthur controversy. Although extremely hostile to the general, he supplies enough evidence to justify Truman's actions. Goulden also does a good job in discussing the lengthy armistice negotiations. Thus if the military history is weak other aspects are, if not exactly new, competently executed.

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Wilson, Dick. *When Tigers Fight: The Story of the Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945*. New York: Viking Press, 1982. 269pp. \$16.95

When Americans think about the war against Japan they remember the sea, air, and amphibious operations in the Pacific. The British tend to focus on the operations of General Slim's 14th Army in India and Burma. A few people recall Merrill's marauders and some are familiar with General Stilwell's problems in the China-Burma-India theater. During the entire conflict with Japan, however, the majority of the Imperial Army fought in China where it had been

operating since 1937. At the time of Japan's capitulation there were over 1,200,000 Japanese troops in China and Manchuria. Although scholars have written a good deal about China's social and political problems, relatively little has been done on the military operations on China's mainland.

Mr. Dick Wilson has attempted with some success to fill this gap for in a straightforward narrative, he describes the military operations of the Sino-Japanese War from 1937 to 1945. He notes that Chinese resistance was substantial and often effective. The Japanese army could, it is true, usually capture geographic objectives, but it was never able to destroy China's political or military ability to resist.

Mr. Wilson's book has a number of defects. Order of battle information is minimal as is his data on diplomatic activity. The impact of the war on Chinese society is also treated in a sketchy manner. Still, Wilson's book is very useful. It is accurate as far as it goes and it illuminates a major and largely ignored aspect of the Second World War.

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Shachtman, Tom. *The Phony War 1939-1940*. New York: Harper & Row, 1982. 289pp. \$16.95

Mr. Shachtman's book contains no original research. The story he tells has been told before, and he adds nothing new. His book is mistitled. It does not deal with the "phony war" but rather with the course of World War II from its outbreak to the fall of France. The book is also marred by several minor factual errors. For example, no matter what Mr. Shachtman says, Yugoslavia did not in 1939 (nor does it today) have a common frontier with the USSR.