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Ghosts of Honolulu: A Japanese Spy, a Japanese American Spy Hunter, and the Untold Story of Pearl Harbor

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those interested in this increasingly pertinent aspect of modern conflict, this book is highly recommended.

RICHARD NORTON



Ghosts of Honolulu: A Japanese Spy, a Japanese American Spy Hunter, and the Untold Story of Pearl Harbor, by Mark Harmon and Leon Carroll Jr. Nashville, TN: Harper Select, 2023. 272 pages. \$29.99.

Collaboratively crafted by Mark Harmon, a key figure from the hit television show *NCIS*, about dramatized exploits of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), and Leon Carroll, a real former special agent with NCIS, *Ghosts of Honolulu* delves into the intriguing and intricate stories of espionage surrounding Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941. In this meticulous exploration, the authors illuminate the clandestine world of naval intelligence, revealing the remarkable journey of a University of Hawaii baseball star who became the first Asian American U.S. naval counterintelligence officer. The narrative also introduces a Japanese spy seeking redemption after an abrupt end to his military career, as the two men's destinies intersect amid the chaos unfolding in Hawaii.

The stage is set years prior to the momentous day of infamy, introducing not just the two main protagonists but also an array of key figures in the realm of military espionage. The book extensively delves into unraveling the personalities behind these pivotal roles. Rich in detail and supported by abundant resources, it resurrects information often lost in time. The initial depiction meticulously painted

by the authors prepares the reader as the timeline unfolds, shedding light on the escalating tension with Japan that eventually culminates in the ominous conflict engulfing the Pacific. Within these intricate details, readers come to understand that the Hawaiian Islands had already become a war zone, hosting not only military officials but also spies and their handlers, years before the infamous attack on 7 December.

Ghosts of Honolulu paints a vibrant picture of Douglas Wada's experiences and unwavering patriotism for his hometown of Honolulu, and for the United States. It delves into fascinating details, allowing readers to forge connections between his undercover endeavors as a newspaper reporter, his pivotal role in translating wiretaps on the Japanese consulate, and his leadership in interrogating a submarine officer who becomes America's first captured POW of World War II. The narrative unfolds in tandem with Wada's rise as a naval intelligence officer, mirroring the trajectory of Takeo Yoshikawa, a Japanese spy operating as a junior diplomat within the consulate in Honolulu. Yoshikawa's mission involves collecting vital information to be directly transmitted to Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, architect of the coming attack.

The storyline unfolds into a captivating intelligence struggle between Japan and the United States. In this scenario, the casualties extend beyond personnel losses to include critical information that both sides fiercely compete to acquire or protect. The narrative immerses you in the intricate world of espionage, where both factions employ tactics and unexpected alliances to gain a strategic advantage. Harmon and Carroll inject excitement into their writing,

creating an atmosphere reminiscent of a dramatic television episode, complete with elements of deception, discovery, and impending danger.

As the narrative of the rival spies unravels, the authors delve into the difficulties experienced by innocent residents of Honolulu, such as Douglas Wada's father, amid the wartime anti-Japanese sentiment and the establishment of internment camps. The authors seamlessly weave personal anecdotes into the broader backdrop of the main characters' efforts to shield Hawaii from succumbing to the same harmful mass internments of Japanese Americans witnessed on the mainland United States.

The historical perspective presented in *Ghosts of Honolulu* is not only informative but also thought-provoking. By exploring the nuanced layers of the key players, readers acquire an authentic understanding of the decisions made in a previously untold chapter of World War II history. The commendable character development in this work brings unsung heroes of U.S. intelligence to life, offering readers a deeper insight into the human aspects of war. The authors adeptly navigate the complexities of espionage and military intelligence, crafting a narrative that is extremely engaging.

This work exhibits a multitude of strengths, and among them is the vivid depiction of the high-stakes game of naval intelligence. The book addresses the broader implications of the intelligence operations depicted, showcasing the resilience and dedication of American patriots who worked tirelessly to protect their country while upholding its highest ideals. The themes of patriotism, sacrifice, and

the quest for truth permeate the story, resonating with readers on a visceral level. Moreover, this work sheds light on the origins of investigative techniques used by NCIS, with the different investigations employed during the war laying the groundwork for the organization as it stands today. The postwar realization of the need to distinguish between what is real and what is not led to the restructuring of the organization into the NCIS of the present day.

Ghosts of Honolulu is a masterfully crafted piece by debut author Mark Harmon. The work not only educates readers on the intricacies of naval intelligence during World War II but also captivates them with its rich storytelling. Harmon and Carroll have succeeded in presenting a compelling, historically accurate narrative. The book provides even more insight into a sector of World War II that is not as well-known as others, establishing a tremendous introduction with plans to continue exploring the inception and implementation of NCIS in future works.

GREG RODRIGUE



A New Force at Sea: George Dewey and the Rise of the American Navy, by David A. Smith. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2023. 376 pages. \$44.95.

George Dewey occupies a unique position in American naval history. An officer who served a remarkable fifty-eight years on active duty that bridged the Civil War era and the height of the steel and steam era, he commanded the Navy's Asiatic Squadron to a lopsided victory at the Battle of