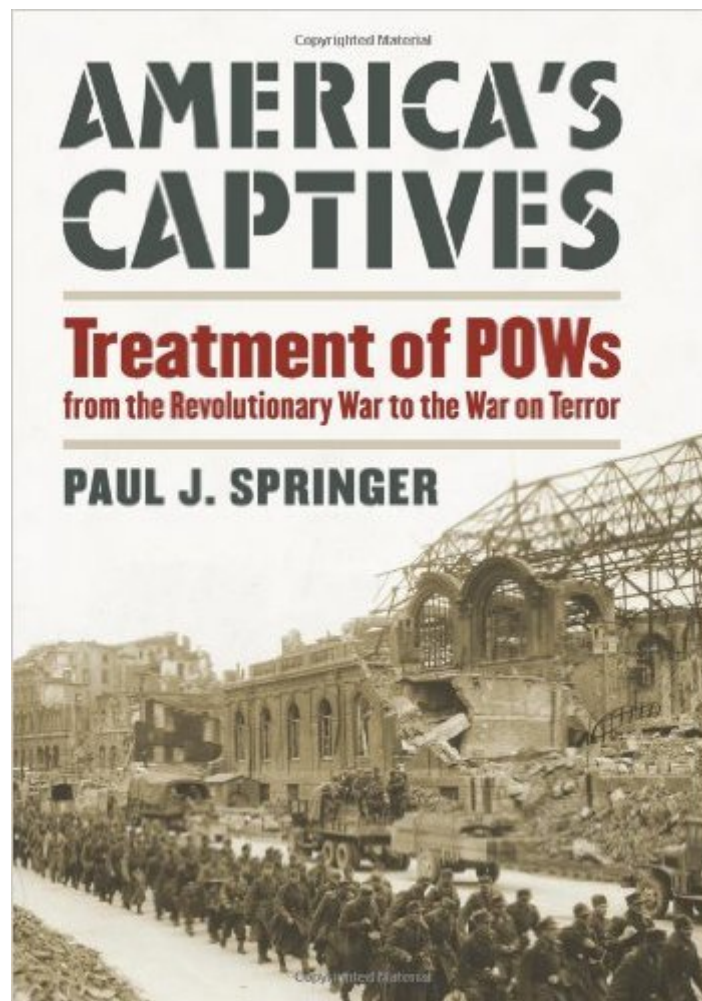


The book was found

America's Captives: Treatment Of POWs From The Revolutionary War To The War On Terror (Modern War Studies (Hardcover))



Synopsis

Notwithstanding the long shadows cast by Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo, the United States has been generally humane in the treatment of prisoners of war, reflecting a desire to both respect international law and provide the kind of treatment we would want for our own troops if captured. In this first comprehensive study of the subject in more than half a century, Paul Springer presents an in-depth look at American POW policy and practice from the Revolutionary War to the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Springer contends that our nation's creation and application of POW policy has been repeatedly improvised and haphazard, due in part to our military's understandable focus on defeating its enemies on the field of battle, rather than on making arrangements for their detention. That focus, however, has set the conditions for the military's chronic failure to record and learn from both successful and unsuccessful POW practices in previous wars. He also observes that American POW policy since World War II has largely sought to outsource POW operations to allied forces in order to retain American personnel for frontline service—outsourcing that has led to recent scandals. Focusing on each major war in turn, Springer examines the lessons learned and forgotten by American military and political leaders regarding our nation's experience in dealing with foreign POWs. He highlights the indignities of the Civil War, the efforts of the United States and its World War I allies to devise an effective POW policy, the unequal treatment of Japanese prisoners compared with that of German and Italian prisoners during World War II, and the impact of the Geneva Convention on the handling of Korean and Vietnamese captives. In bringing his coverage up to the so-called War on Terror, he also marks the nation's clear departure from previous practice—American treatment of POWs, once deemed exemplary by the Red Cross after Operation Desert Storm, has become controversial throughout the world. *America's Captives* provides a long-needed overarching framework for this important subject and makes a strong case that we should stop ignoring the lessons of the past and make the disposition of prisoners one of the standard components of our military education and training.

Book Information

Series: Modern War Studies (Hardcover)

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: University Press of Kansas; First Edition edition (March 17, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0700617175

ISBN-13: 978-0700617173

Product Dimensions: 6.6 x 1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,495,435 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #159 in Â Books > History > Military > Prisoners of War #15585 in Â Books > History > Military > United States

Customer Reviews

As I finish the last few pages on this book, I would give it my highest recommendation for any reader interested in this subject. This is a very thorough (yet entirely readable) look at American policy and practice for the handling of enemy POWs in each of our wars (including the Indian Wars and the Philippine Insurrection). I am fairly well read in military history and I did not find anything in the book that did not seem accurate based on my knowledge. In any case, there are extensive footnotes (many quite informative in and of themselves). The sad thing is that we have had, according to the book, a dramatically inconsistent record in our handling of enemy POWs. In the Mexican War, it was quite liberal and humane, as also was the case in the Spanish War. We did an excellent job In World War II, with millions of German POWs, about 50,000 Italian POWs, and relatively few Japanese POWs. On the other hand, in the Civil War, there was Andersonville in Georgia and the equivalents in the North which were unspeakably horrible and deeply shameful. After the 1991 Gulf War, the United States was certified by the International Red Cross/Red Crescent (the international protecting body for POWs) as having provided, for the Iraqi POWs in that brief war, the most humane care ever recorded in military history. Then, just a decade later, in the "Global War on Terrorism," we opened "Gitmo" and secret prisons around the world, and went in the opposite direction. While admittedly the campaign against terrorism--and the imprisonment of terrorists (not soldiers)--presents a whole different and challenging set of issues, this book really shows how far from our usual standards we have drifted, in my opinion. If you are interested in the history of a vital part of national military policy, I strongly suggest that you start with this book.

A different point of view.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

America's Captives: Treatment of POWs from the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror (Modern War Studies (Hardcover)) War of Vengeance: Acts of Retaliation Against Civil War POWs Yamashita's Ghost: War Crimes, MacArthur's Justice, and Command Accountability (Modern War Studies (Hardcover)) MacArthur's Korean War Generals (Modern War Studies (Hardcover)) The

War for Korea, 1950-1951: They Came from the North (Modern War Studies (Hardcover)) Captives among the Indians: Firsthand Narratives of Indian Wars, Customs, Tortures, and Habits of Life in Colonial Times FERN MICHAELS COMPLETE SERIES READING ORDER: Sisterhood, Godmothers, Sins, Captives, Men of the Sisterhood, Cisco, Kentucky, Texas, Vegas, and more! FERN MICHAELS: SERIES READING ORDER & BOOK CHECKLIST.: SERIES LISTING INCLUDES: CAPTIVES, TEXAS, SINS, VEGAS, KENTUCKY, CISCO FAMILY, SISTERHOOD & MORE. ... Authors Reading Order & Checklists 30) Freeing the Captives: The Emerging Therapy of Treating Spirit Attachment Marines and Military Law in Vietnam: Trial by Fire - Legal Duty in Combat Zone, War Crime Conviction, POWs, Drugs, Fraggings and Murder, Homicide on Patrol, Racial Conflict, Deserters, Uniform Code Prisoners of the Japanese: Pows of World War II in the Pacific The Anguish of Surrender: Japanese POWs of World War II The South Beach Diet Supercharged Faster Weight Loss and Better Health for Life [2008 Hardcover] Arthur Agatston MD (Author) Joseph Signorile PhD (Author)The South Beach Diet Supercharged Faster Weight Loss and Better Health for Life [2008 Hardcover] IP6: Nature's Revolutionary Cancer Fighter: Nature's Revolutionary Cancer-Fighter Salvador Allende: Revolutionary Democrat (Revolutionary Lives) Escape from the Japanese: The Amazing Tale of a PoWs Journey From Hong Kong to Freedom Given Up for Dead: American POWs in the Nazi Concentration Camp at Berga Soldiers of Misfortune: Washington's Secret Betrayal of American POWs in the Soviet Union Defiant: The POWs Who Endured Vietnam's Most Infamous Prison Hair: Hair Loss: Learn About Hair Loss Prevention Methods and Regrowth Treatment: Hair Loss Cure: Hair Loss (Men's Health, Hair Loss Treatment, Regrow ... Loss Treatment for Woman, Hair Loss Cure)

[Dmca](#)