

*East China Sea 1945* is an excellent introductory text into the late air-sea actions of the Second World War's Pacific Theatre. Herder has done an admirable job of condensing the historical perspectives of both sides into the constraints of the Campaign Series format, touching on major facets, as well as smaller details and eyewitness accounts. For those interested in Allied carrier operations, late-war Japanese naval and aviation actions, and learning more about the often overlooked yet vitally important operations that dovetailed with some of the most iconic battles in the closing days of the Pacific Theatre, this text would be a welcome resource.

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**Alan G. Jamieson. *Out of the Depths: A History of Shipwrecks*. Chicago, IL: Reaktion Books, University of Chicago Press, [www.uchicago.edu](http://www.uchicago.edu), 2022. 342pp., illustrations, bibliography, index. US \$35.00, cloth; ISBN 978-1-78914-619-6.**

Whether looking at the wreck of the *Titanic* or the recently discovered *Endurance*, shipwrecks are arguably among the most public attention-grabbing objects within the realm of maritime history. Each one not only provides a time capsule from the past, but also a story of technological success and failure, a tale of humankind's struggle against the powers of nature, and finally, an often highly dramatic and tragic story of the people aboard.

With *Out of the Depths: A History of Shipwrecks*, Canadian researcher Alan G. Jamieson provides an overview of shipwrecks around the globe that were lost at sea between the early beginnings of ocean navigation and the present day. Organized chronologically by date of loss of the respective vessels, the book provides a plethora of information. In the first of the two main sections, we learn about each ship, the circumstances of its loss, and occasionally, the history of the identification of the wreck site and recovery of the ship. Among the wrecks covered are well known ships like the Bremen Cog, the *Mary Rose*, the USS *Monitor*, and the RMS *Titanic*, as well as hundreds of ships normally only known to a small group of highly-specialized maritime historians and/or underwater archaeologists.

The second part of the book provides a somewhat brief overview of the development of maritime/underwater archaeology as an academic discipline, followed by a discussion of the development of commercial shipwreck-hunting companies and finally, a chapter on supertanker wrecks, clearly showcasing that wrecks are not only historical artefacts that may contain historical and/or monetary treasure, but might also present substantial risks and threats to entire

ecosystems. The book concludes with a brief apparatus consisting mainly out of a bibliography and an index.

Assembling information on hundreds of shipwrecks from all around the globe into one comprehensive and easily readable volume is without any doubt a major achievement, as recognized by leading experts in the field like James P. Delgado, Vic Mastone, and Warren Riess on the dust-cover of the book. Nevertheless, it needs to be asked if simply listing the shipwrecks in a single narrative reaching from pre-historic times to the present is really the best way to organize such a comprehensive overview, especially as the only finding aid provided within the book is a standard index organized by names, including ship's names. Some additional finding aids organized by chronology and geography would have been most beneficial to make the book not only an overview, but a truly usable reference book that works for the general public as an introduction to the topic, but also as a tool for the professional historian. Furthermore, while the book includes a limited selection of photographs and illustrations of individual shipwrecks, it does not include any maps or charts. This seems to the reviewer at least somewhat problematic, as most readers will not be familiar with the locations of the respective shipwrecks. Simple charts would have been an easy tool to illustrate that wrecks are not spread evenly over the ocean floor, but rather congregate in certain parts of the seabed leaving other spaces more or less empty.

Despite its limited use as a reference book, professional readers may find the second part of the book most illuminating. Besides providing a brief but good overview on the development of maritime/underwater archaeology, the section on the rise of shipwreck-hunting companies is probably the most interesting section of the whole book. Jamieson traces the development of this commercial, "ugly twin" of academic research on shipwrecks. He includes an analysis of the motives behind such activities and more importantly, the complex relationships and interactions between such companies and entrepreneurs and various national and state governments. While he successfully debunks the idea that shipwreck-hunting and underwater archaeology are basically the same, he demonstrates in his final conclusion at least some sympathy for the idea of recovery of whatever can be recovered by arguing to a certain degree against the main principle of the UNESCO Convention on Underwater Cultural Resources, means to keep shipwrecks in-situ as the preferred option.

Regardless of whether you agree with the author's position, or adhere to the principles of the UNESCO Convention, the discussion on shipwreck hunting vs maritime/underwater archaeology will make you think about this dichotomy, and hopefully, help reach a better understanding of the complexities involved with shipwrecks of all periods and geographical regions.

To whom should this book be recommended? On one hand, it can easily be

recommended to general readers with an interest in shipwrecks, as it provides a comprehensive overview of shipwrecks around the globe, the development of the related academic discipline of underwater archaeology and the difference between it and commercial shipwreck-hunting. It can also be recommended as a textbook for any introductory university class on underwater archaeology or maybe even maritime history at large, basically for the same reasons. Recommending it to professional underwater archaeologists or maritime historians may be problematic as it does not include all the tools that would constitute a real reference book. The two chapters on the development of underwater archaeology and shipwreck hunting might be intellectual stimulating reads, but is that enough?

Given a suggested retail price of US \$35.00 the answer to this question might still be a “yes”. I would suggest purchasing the book, reading the two chapters, and then giving the book to one of your students or friends who might be interested in an introduction to the topic.

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**Kerry Jang. *Victory: 100-Gun First Rate 1765*. Barnsley, S. Yorks: Seaforth Publishing, [www.seaforthpublishing.com](http://www.seaforthpublishing.com), ShipCraft No. 29, 2022. 64 pp., illustrations, tables, bibliography. UK £16.99, US \$28.95, paper; ISBN 978-1-3990-8573-1.**

The ShipCraft series provides modelers and those interested in the design and construction of various vessels of war with a wealth of detailed information on historical background, variations within type or class, and changes over time in appearance, equipment, and fittings. Traditionally, ShipCraft volumes present material on a class or vessel type from the Second World War or less-commonly, the First World War, the Vietnam War, or the years between wars. Series 29 is a departure from this approach, focusing for the first time on a period ship, Horatio Nelson’s famous and beloved HMS *Victory*.

Those familiar with the series will recognize the content and organization. A concise but well-researched history lesson is provided in the opening chapters, followed by a review of various model kits available on the market, a Model Maker’s showcase, and chapters dealing with appearance and paint schemes. The book concludes with a brief listing of print and on-line references, as well as sources for acquiring model kits of the *Victory* and related accessories.

Author Kerry Jang, an accomplished ship modeler, has previously published paperback books on kits and scratch-builts, as well as detailed kit reviews on-line. This series highlights his emphasis on thorough research and