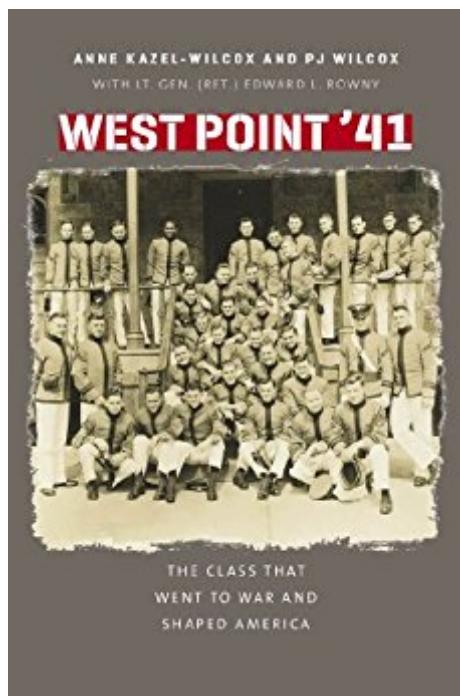


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West Point '41: The Class That Went To War And Shaped America



Synopsis

The inspiring true story of the West Point class of '41, which graduated into combat leadership in World War II and went on to shape policy in Korea, during the Cold War, and in Vietnam

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

West Point '41 by Anne Kazel-Wilcox and PJ Wilcox, with Lieutenant General (US Army, ret.) Edward L. Rowny, is a magnificent tribute to the United States Military Academy's Class of 1941 whose 424 Cadets graduated and were commissioned officers in the United States Army in June 1941. The book tracks several '41ers throughout World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War. The underlying theme is one of unflagging service and leadership following the precepts of West Point's motto, 'Duty, Honor, Country'. The authors' approach to West Point '41 involved interviewing several members of the class following its seventieth reunion at West Point in 2011. Additionally, the authors perused published memoirs of other '41 graduates, yearbooks, unit histories, and other historical publications. The book includes notes and detailed bibliography as well as indexes of military units and personal names and subjects. It includes also an appendix listing the graduates of the USMA Class of 1941. The dedicatory page preceding the

book's table of contents lists the names of 44 class members killed in action making the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom. In July 1937, the majority of USMA 1941 candidates reported to West Point aware of the stirring winds of war: Hitler's Germany, Stalin's Soviet Union, the Spanish civil war underway, Mussolini's Fascist Italy aligned with Germany and in support of Franco's Nationalists in Spain, and Imperial Japan was expanding militarily throughout Asia. Two weeks after their commissioning, Germany launched Operation Barbarossa against Russia. Five months later, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

"West Point 41, The Class That Went To War And Shaped America" is an outstanding work of both history and biography that starts with an inside look at the relentless mental, physical and psychological training that prepared the Class of 1941 at West Point to be thrown within months of their graduation into wartime service and in some cases deadly combat duty at the outbreak of World War II just months after their graduation. The book benefits from scores of interviews that the authors obtained over three years from members of the Class as well as in depth archival research that sheds new - and often different light - on some of the most important campaigns of World War II as well as critical actions taken by the Generals in that War (whom class members often served as advisers to.) Class members also had the experience of "hands on" application of the skills that they had acquired at the Military Academy - in combat - to the practical (and often deadly) problems posed by modern warfare. This work then follows the careers that the men of West Point '41 would make - after the War - that had an enormous intersection with the most significant military, foreign and intelligence policies of the United States in the Cold War and beyond.

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