

Far East Prisoners Of War

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how 15 million prisoners of war depended less on the geneva convention than on their captors attitudes and customs

america s current war on terror is causing a readjustment of centuries of pow policies prisoners of war are once again in the news as america and western europe grapple with a new faceless enemy and the rules of war and the torture of pows are open to reconsideration until very recently there has been astonishingly little written on the subject of prisoners of war yet to understand the present it is critical to look back over history to that end arnold krammer examines the fate of war prisoners from biblical and medieval times through the halting evolution of international law to the current reshuffling of the rules the issue of prisoners of war is of more immediate concern now than ever before and an examination of the history of their treatment and current status may well influence foreign policy the fate of war prisoners through history has been cruel and haphazard the lives of captives hung by a thread execution enslavement torture or being held for ransom were equally likely international agreements developed haltingly through the 19th and 20th centuries to culminate in the geneva accords of 1929 america s current war on terror is causing a readjustment of centuries of pow policies prisoners of war are once again in the news as america and western europe grapple with a new faceless enemy and the rules of war and the torture of pows are open to reconsideration until very recently there has been astonishingly little written on the subject of prisoners of war yet to understand the present it is critical to look back over history to that end arnold krammer examines the fate of war

prisoners from biblical and medieval times through the halting evolution of international law to the current reshuffling of the rules since biblical times war captives have been considered property and counted as booty to be enslaved or killed americans were interested in generals and weapons and battles but not the fate of prisoners of war the second world war when 90 000 americans fell into enemy hands began to change that concern for our pows in germany and japan and close contact with enemy camps in america began to change our attitudes however it was the vietnam war media driven and polarizing that caused the american public to truly reevaluate the plight of its sons and brothers heroic and clearly loyal as they fell into the hands of an inscrutable and apparently unyielding distant enemy more recently during the first gulf war of 1991 and the current war on terrorism the issue of prisoners of war has moved to center stage involving the clash of ideologies politics and expediency since 9 11 the rights and safety of prisoners of war caught up in the war on terror have been debated in congress and adjudicated on by former attorney general alberto gonzales whose conclusions were protested by numerous organizations the issue of prisoners of war is of more immediate concern now than ever before and an examination of the history of their treatment and current status may well influence foreign policy

based on archival research in germany great britain the usa and canada this study provides the first complete examination of the relationship between the oberkommando der wehrmacht german armed forces high command and anglo american prisoners of war german military policy is compared with reports of almost one thousand visits by red cross and protecting power inspectors to the camps allowing the reader to judge how well the policies were actually put into practice and what their impact was on the lives of the captured soldiers sailors and airmen

new york city 1929 a sanatorium a deadly disease and a dire nurse shortage so

begins the remarkable true story of the black nurses who helped cure tuberculosis one of the world's deadliest plagues told alongside the often strange chronicle of the cure's discovery shortlisted for the pen hessell tiltman prize 2024 a tour de force pen gripping new york times wonderfully told an invaluable restoration of another of history's racially biased omissions diana evans their triumphant story has until now been almost completely neglected the bookseller informative entralling and sometimes appalling this is history at its best booklist during those dark pre antibiotic days when tuberculosis killed 1 in 7 people white nurses at sea view new york's largest municipal hospital began quitting desperate to avert a public health crisis city officials summoned black southern nurses luring them with promises of good pay a career and an escape from the strictures of jim crow but after arriving they found themselves on an isolated hilltop in the remote borough of staten island yet again confronting racism and consigned to a woefully understaffed facility dubbed the pest house where no one left alive spanning the great depression and moving through world war ii and beyond this story follows the intrepid young women the black angels who for twenty years risked their lives working under dreadful conditions while caring for the city's poorest 1 800 souls languishing in wards waiting to die or become guinea pigs for experimental often deadly drugs yet despite their major role in desegregating the nyc hospital system and vital work in the race for the cure for tuberculosis and subsequently helping to find it at sea view these nurses were completely erased from history the black angels recovers the voices of these extraordinary women and puts them at the centre of this riveting story celebrating their legacy and spirit of survival

examines the experiences of individual prisoners of war looking in particular at alleged war crimes and ensuing claims for compensation levelled against the japanese and at british treatment of italian pows the book provides an overview and synthesis of the most heated debates in the field

the issue of prisoners in war is a highly timely topic that has received much attention from both scholars and practitioners since the start of the military operations in afghanistan and iraq and the ensuing legal and political problems concerning detainees in those conflicts this book analyses these contemporary problems and challenges against the background of their historical development it provides a multidisciplinary yet highly coherent perspective on the historical trajectory of legal and ethical norms in this field by integrating the historical analysis of war with a study of the emergence of the modern legal regime of prisoners in war in doing so it provides the first comprehensive study of prisoners detainees and internees in war covering a broad range of both regular and irregular wars from the crusades to contemporary counterinsurgency campaigns the book revolves around two major developments first there has been a continuous increase in the political relevance of prisoners in war in particular since the emergence of pow camps in the nineteenth century secondly and related the growth in the legal regime pertaining to prisoners had contradictory consequences whilst it enhanced the protection of prisoners in regular conflicts its state centric bias tends to exclude combatants who do not fit the template of regular inter state war detainees in the war on terror embody both tendencies the development of which however is by no means a novel phenomenon this book is a project of the oxford leverhulme programme on the changing character of war

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