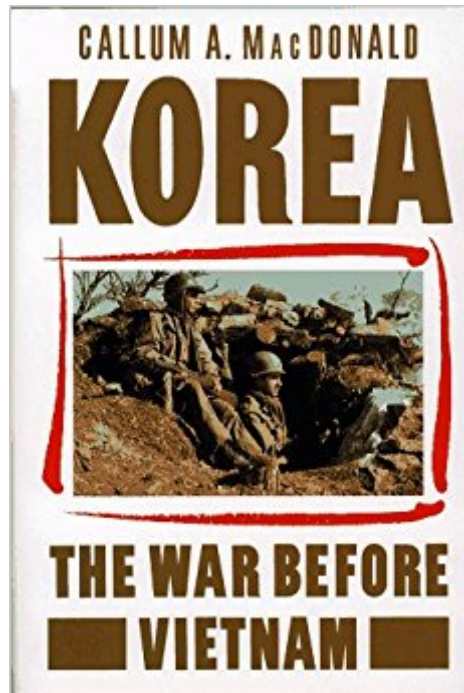




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Korea: The War Before Vietnam



Synopsis

The clearest, most complete and unbiased examination to date of the Korean War, whose geopolitical aftershocks can still be felt today. Black-and-white photographs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This mature and thoughtful reprise of the Korean War falls short of its implied comparison with the Vietnam experience but is useful nonetheless. It is the first in which Douglas MacArthur's personality takes a back seat to international politics. MacDonald, lecturer in Comparative American Studies at the University of Warwick, discards most of the pervasive assumptions of the 1950s, deftly showing President Eisenhower's pragmatism and Syngman Rhee's cynical manipulation of the prisoner-of-war issue. His treatment of the conduct of the air war is one of the most realistic in print. More insightful than Joseph Goulden's popular *Korea: the untold story of the war* (LJ 2/1/82), this is suitable for the lay public as well as academics. Raymond L. Puffer, U.S. Air Force History Prog., Los Angeles

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This book's goals were different from my expectations, which explain why I "like" but don't "love" the book. If you want to know much about the actual war in Korea, this book is not of great help. It is not a history of the war so much as a history of the politics behind the war. MacDonald does a great job of scoping out the political landscape and showing the complexities of American leaders trying to understand "limited" warfare. You get a clear understanding of the developing Cold War, the growth of China, and the end of America's style of fighting. What you do not get is any idea of life for the

soldiers or Koreans -- this is a 10,000-foot view which rarely gets down to the ground.

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