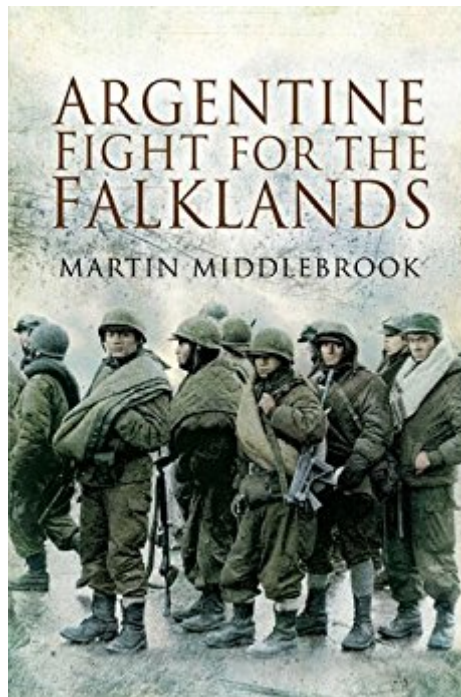


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Argentine Fight For The Falklands



Synopsis

Martin Middlebrook is the only British historian to have been granted open access to the Argentines who planned and fought the Falklands War. It ranks with Liddell Hart's *The Other Side of the Hill* in analyzing and understanding the military thinking and strategies of Britain's sometime enemy, and is essential reading for all who wish to understand the workings of military minds. The author has managed to avoid becoming involved in the issue of sovereignty and concentrates entirely upon the military story. He has produced a genuine 'first' with this balanced and unique work. Among the men he met were the captain of the ship that took the scrap-metal merchants to South Georgia; the admiral in charge of planning the Falklands invasion; the marine commander and other members of the invasion force; two brigadier-generals, five unit commanders and many other men of the large army force sent to occupy and defend the islands.; the officer in charge of the Argentine garrison at Goose Green; and finally the brigadier-general responsible for the Defence of Port Stanley and soldiers of all ranks who fought the final battles.

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Customer Reviews

I have never read one of Mr Middlebrook's books before, but I am now searching for other titles by

him. Because this was one of those books that I had a hard time putting down. Up front let me say that my nationality is British and I can remember the Falklands War like it was yesterday. However despite having read numerous accounts of the British Victory very little has been said from the perspective of the soldiers who wore the Argentine Uniform. This book changes all that, and thru what where obviously some pretty intense interviews as you read this book you start to get a feeling and even an understanding of the passions and emotions of the young soldiers facing the Brits. In the western press we hear about the superiority of the British War machine during the conflict; however the Argentines did put up a spirited if ineffective defence of the Falklands. Another thing that I thought was very interesting about this book is that we get to see how and why misinformation was distributed in the fog of war. I suppose the difference between the British and Argentine governments is that we laid open the books after the conflict to the public versus the Argentines who outright lied to preserve face. Then there are the issues of the foot soldiers on the Argentine side who despite facing what is arguable the best trained army in the world, displayed uncommon gallantry far and above what the pro British press has previously reported. About the only thing I wish Mr Middlebrook had fleshed out a little more is politics of the Argentines on the mainland.

This is an excellent book, compelling and well written. The author clearly went to tremendous efforts to research and understand the Argentine perspective. The many quotes from the Argentine military help one get an understanding of the rather miserable experiences they had fighting the British. Rather worryingly, the author gently suggests they might try again, even though the current Argentine government has allegedly ruled out the military option.

For those of you looking for something different to Sir Lawrence Freedman's official history, or Max Hastings 'Falklands War', try Martin Middlebrook's 'The Argentine Fight for the Falklands'. I bought it thinking it was another Argentine perspective. But for Falklands analysts it is still worth having in the library. Pages 131-132 alone are worth the price. Two British frigates were very nearly sunk by an Argentine submarine. Why they survived makes interesting reading and is very useful for capability analysis today.

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I've bought a few of Middlebrook's books, but I'm not sure if I've really read many of them. This was a fascinating book for me. I've read a few books on the topic (islands were invaded a year before I was born - so no first hand memory of the actual events from the news media). But the books were always written with a British slant. It's always interesting to see from the other side why they felt they were fighting. It seems odd that people could get so worked up over a bunch of islands that appear to have not much going for them, but never argue with ego and patriotism I guess. And I think Middlebrook captures those feelings very well in his book. I wish he could have covered the air attacks against the British better, but like he said he wasn't going to rehash it from the British sources and he was obviously limited by what sources he could get from Argentine contacts. I do find it interesting how often he mentioned that they still believe they sunk or damaged vessels that were clearly not sunk or not damaged. That the propaganda was so ingrained even in the pilots that they still believe the errors. Of course I'm left wondering how much of it is desperately wanting to believe that your fellow pilots didn't die in vain, that they at least accomplished something. If you have an interest in the Falklands Islands, I think this is an essential reading. You still need another âœregularâ • history of the war to fill in all the pieces and provide a more detailed coverage, but I think being exposed to the other view is essential to get as detailed picture as possible.

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