
*Library Journal* is available online at: [http://libraryjournal.com](http://libraryjournal.com)
Historian Kennedy (The American Pageant) and the staff of the world’s largest library have compiled this informative volume, which explores the myriad facets of this epic conflict and its impact on America and the rest of the world. Drawn from the library’s vast collection of primary-source materials—including those of the Veterans History Project—the book defines the American experience of the Second World War. The first chapter provides the requisite background and general overview of the various participant nations. Eleven interconnected and overlapping chapters follow, including “Politics,” “Mobilization,” “Leadership and Organization,” “War Crimes and the Holocaust,” and “The Media War.” The most salient feature of the war, the Holocaust, is appropriately discussed at great length in one of the longest chapters. Each chapter closes with a list of further readings and is supplemented with chronologies, boxed
sections for selected topics (e.g., “Prominent Figures in Weapons Development”),
and eyewitness accounts. Photographs from
the library’s vast collection round out the
work. The index is preceded by a separate
image index with catalog numbers and
ordering information for those who wish
to obtain copies of the photographs. **BOTTOM LINE** The *Companion* is comprehensive
even when compared with ABC–CLIO’s
five-volume *Encyclopedia of World War II*. It
also compares well with *The Oxford Com-
ppanion to World War II*, but, as expected,
the Library of Congress title has a greater
focus on the United States. The many maps
are archival reproductions, not the glossy
four-color ones some readers have come
to expect. Written in a highly readable and
descriptive style, this is recommended for
all libraries.—Daniel Sifton, Cariboo Regional Dist.
Lib., Williams Lake, B.C.