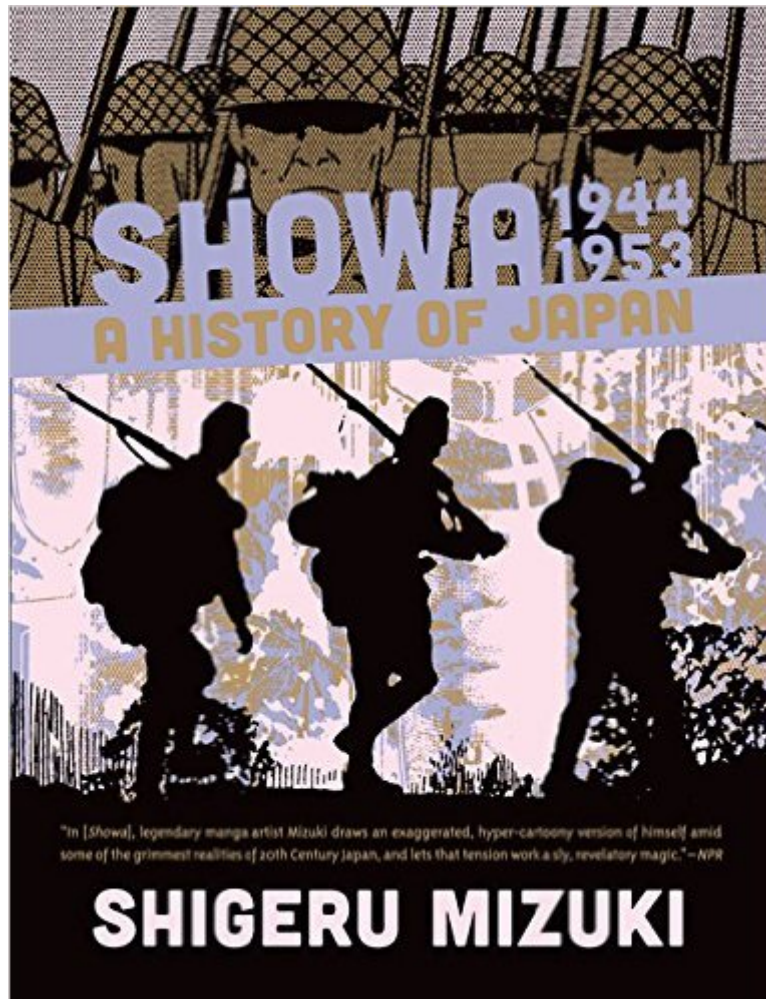


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Showa 1944-1953: A History Of Japan (Showa: A History Of Japan)



Synopsis

A sweeping yet intimate portrait of the legacy of World War II in Japan "Showa 1944 1953: A History of Japan" continues the award-winning author Shigeru Mizuki's autobiographical and historical account of the Showa period in Japan. This volume recounts the events of the final years of the Pacific War, and the consequences of the war's devastation for Mizuki and the Japanese populace at large. After the surprise attack at Pearl Harbor, Japan and the United States are officially at war. The two rival navies engage in a deadly game of feint and thrust, waging a series of microwars across the tiny Pacific islands. From Guadalcanal to Okinawa, Japan slowly loses ground. Finally, the United States unleashes the deathblow with a new and terrible weapon the atomic bomb. The fallout from the bombs is beyond imagining. On another front, "Showa 1944 1953" traces Mizuki's own life story across history's sweeping changes during this period, charting the impact of the war's end on his life choices. After losing his arm during the brutal fighting, Mizuki struggles to decide where to go: whether to remain on the island as an honored friend of the local Tolai people or return to the rubble of Japan and take up his dream of becoming a cartoonist. "Showa 1944 1953" is a searing condemnation of the personal toll of war from one of Japan's most famous cartoonists."

Book Information

Series: Showa: A History of Japan (Book 3)

Paperback: 536 pages

Publisher: Drawn and Quarterly (November 11, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1770461620

ISBN-13: 978-1770461628

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 2 x 8.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #121,422 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Â Books > Comics & Graphic

Novels > Manga > Educational & Nonfiction #29 in Â Books > Comics & Graphic Novels >

Publishers > Drawn and Quarterly #165 in Â Books > History > Asia > Japan

Customer Reviews

The second volume of Shigeru Mizuki's amazing biographical historical magnum opus, "Showa 1944 1953," ended on a mandible plummeting cliff hanger. The third volume picks up where that tense moment left off and continues the incredible tale of both Japan under the rule of the Emperor

Hirohito and Mizuki's personal involvement in that era. The story shifts from omnisciently narrated history, led by the now very familiar Nezumi Otoko, to a singular microcosm of the age told through Mizuki himself. A flood of information fills the pages, especially for those unfamiliar with 20th century Japanese history, but the juxtaposition of history and biography works perfectly. Nezumi Otoko helps weave the two parallel but related stories into one harmonious union. The epic's entirety, encased in 4 enormous volumes, creates an unforgettable portrait of the twentieth century from a Japanese perspective. Much of this often horrifying story has faded into legend or even into oblivion for succeeding generations. World War II still stands as one of the bloodiest and most destructive wars the planet has ever seen. Japan played a large and ultimately tragic role in that massive conflict and "Showa" presents a point of view not often seen in the West. Mizuki never glamorizes fascist Japan. He often rebukes to the point of disgust, confusion and aggravation. As many Mizuki fans know, it cost him an arm and almost took his life on multiple occasions. Only outstanding luck seemed to see him through. Volume three of "Showa" covers the years from 1944 to 1953. These years span the end of the Second World War and the ensuing American Occupation of Japan under Douglas MacArthur. These represent probably the most turbulent and disturbing times for modern Japan.

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