

Gordon W. Prange, (with Donald M. Goldstein and Katherine V. Dillon), **Pearl Harbor – The Verdict of History**, McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1986

Gordon W. Prange noted Professor of History, [University of Maryland](#), wrote “Pearl Harbor – The Verdict of History,” an informative account of the events leading up to 7 December 1941, and its aftermath.

Gordon W. Prange taught at the University of Maryland from 1937 to 1980. His time at the university was broken by service in the United States Navy, for nine years from 1942 to 1951. Significantly Dr. Prange during this time also served as General Douglas MacArthur's Chief Historian in occupied Japan. He was fortunate enough to gain access to many historical records; as well as, the opportunity to interview many former protagonists from which his work is drawn.

Significantly, *Pearl Harbor – The Verdict of History*, is not a linear historiography as one would expect. Rather it is an exposition of the people, diplomacy, military, and political picture. Prange provides invaluable insights into the scenes behind Pearl Harbor and the events leading up to it. It is Prange’s shading and contrast of the people, policies, and actions within the history that illuminates the true story behind Pearl Harbor.

Prange’s book, broken down into four parts, are essentially guidelines and overviews concerning the policies, actors, and outcomes of the day. Each chapter can be read independently. They are individual studies in of themselves.

Of special interest in this work is the contrast and arguments that Prange presents concerning revisionist history, in which it is alleged that President Roosevelt and his aides, deliberately colluded to let Pearl Harbor happen, to bring the United States into the war. Prange gives all opinions due and fair consideration in the discussion. Although Prange debunks both conspiracy and revisionist theorists, he also allows latitude for the reader to make up their own minds, to draw their own conclusions, and trusting that his counter arguments are sufficient to sway.

Pearl Harbor – The Verdict of History, divided into four essential parts; need not be read sequentially or by section order. The work has been constructed so that readers with specialized interest need only refer to the material pertinent to them. As such, Prange’s work is an important reference to the events of Pearl Harbor. It

remains today, a valuable addition to one's library concerning the Second World War and the Pacific theatre of operations.

Post script:

Gordon W. Prange, noted expert on the war with Japan, was the technical advisor on the 1970 movie "Tora Tora Tora" that was largely based on his work.