

The Myth of the Good War by Jacques Pauwels examines why the US entered World War II and fought with the Allies. Pauwels argues that America's role was determined by the interests of America's major corporations. He discusses twentieth century American foreign policy and impacts of the rise and fall of the Soviet Union.

Pauwels holds PhDs in history and political science. He cites several historians, many American, who concur with his findings. His book was a European best seller for four months.

He explains that although Britain and the US opposed Nazi Germany because Germany suppressed freedoms, they hadn't extended similar freedoms within their colonies. British India and the US-occupied Philippines were far from democratic. Equally undemocratic were US supported, post-war, dictatorships in Latin America and the brutal civilian and military dictatorships in Spain, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Iran, Taiwan, Indonesia, Argentina, and Chile. When Pearl Harbour was attacked, Hawaii was an American colony. Hawaiians hadn't invited the Americans to occupy their islands. Pearl Harbour was a battle between two imperial powers over spoils. Hawaii, if asked, would have preferred independence.

Pauwels debunks the myth that Hitler seized control of Germany without support. Beyond his horrific racist legacy, Hitler eliminated unions and terrorized workers. In contrast, subsidiaries of American corporations including Coca-Cola, General Motors's Opel Division, Ford's Fordwerke, IBM's facility in Berlin, and Standard Oil's partner IG Farben (the poison gas manufacturer), flourished under Nazism. Pauwels records that workers were driven harder and faster. They were forbidden not only to strike, but to change jobs, and their wages were set quite low. For example, Fordwerke, which had posted losses prior to Hitler, saw annual profits soar after his ascent to power. Fordwerke cut labour costs from fifteen to eleven percent of operating expenses while rearming Germany.

Pauwels explains how Hitler's policy prohibiting repatriation of profits to foreign parent companies was easily circumvented. US corporations profited in Nazi Germany throughout the war, even after the US entered. More surprising, Pauwels explains how these corporations paid little in war reparation after fighting ended.

Pauwels describes how the Soviet Union made the biggest contribution to the Allied victory over Nazi Germany. In June, 1941, after Hitler had squeezed the British off the continent, he invaded the Soviet Union. The US, still neutral, and Britain expected a quick Nazi victory to eliminate the red peril. Pauwels elaborates why the US and Britain saw communism as a greater threat than fascism.

Allied aid to the Soviet did not become meaningful until 1942 after the Soviet had singlehandedly stopped the Wehrmacht and started their counter-offensive. Far from helping the Soviets, US corporations, Texaco and Standard Oil, shipped oil to fuel the Nazi offensive. In 1942, Stalin asked his Allies to open a second diversionary front in Europe.

Pauwels hypothesizes, "Dieppe, the massacre of Canadians in an operation that violated all of the rules of military logic and strategy, silenced those who clamoured for a second front."

"Canadians," says Pauwels, "constituted the perfect cannon fodder because their leaders did not belong to the British-American top command who would have been reluctant to sacrifice their own men."

To Stalin's dismay, Britain and America invaded North Africa and Italy offering little support to the Soviet Union. The Soviet victory at Stalingrad followed by a rapid sweep across Europe forced the Normandy Invasion. Pauwels argues the Cold war was a deliberate American construct to prevent Germany from paying reparations to the Soviet Union and to force the USSR to make unsustainable, defensive military expenditures. According to Pauwels, World War Two truly ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union.