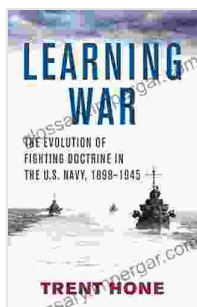


The Evolution of Fighting Doctrine in the Navy: A Comprehensive Journey from 1898 to 1945

The United States Navy has undergone a remarkable transformation in its fighting doctrine over the past century, adapting to the ever-changing nature of warfare. This article explores the evolution of the Navy's fighting doctrine from 1898 to 1945, highlighting key battles and technological advancements that shaped its development.

Prior to 1898, the Navy operated under the ideals of the "Age of Sail," emphasizing close-range combat and wooden ships. However, with the advent of steam propulsion, ironclad ships, and long-range artillery, the Navy recognized the need for a new approach to warfare.

The Spanish-American War of 1898 marked the end of the wooden ship era and the beginning of the battleship era. Battleships, with their powerful guns and thick armor, became the backbone of the Navy's fleet. The Battle of Santiago de Cuba (1898) showcased the dominance of battleships over wooden ships, leading to a shift in naval strategy.



Learning War: The Evolution of Fighting Doctrine in the U.S. Navy, 1898–1945 by Trent Hone

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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World War I introduced a new era of naval warfare with the widespread use of submarines. German submarines proved to be a formidable threat, sinking merchant ships and warships alike. The Navy responded by developing anti-submarine tactics and technologies, including the convoy system.

The interwar years witnessed significant advancements in naval aviation. The development of aircraft carriers allowed the Navy to project power from the air, extending its reach and versatility. The Battle of Midway (1942) demonstrated the devastating effectiveness of carrier-based aircraft.

World War II was a crucible for the Navy's fighting doctrine. The conflict encompassed vast ocean battles, amphibious landings, and the integration of new technologies. The Navy's ability to adapt and innovate under pressure shaped its doctrine for decades to come.

The Navy's fighting doctrine was forged in the crucible of battle. Here are some key battles that played a pivotal role in its evolution:

- **Battle of Santiago de Cuba (1898):** Proved the superiority of battleships over wooden ships, leading to a shift in naval strategy.
- **Battle of Jutland (1916):** The largest naval battle of World War I, highlighting the challenges of submarine warfare and the importance of naval aviation.
- **Battle of Midway (1942):** A decisive American victory that demonstrated the power of aircraft carriers and the vulnerability of

battleships.

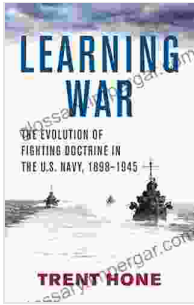
- **Battle of Leyte Gulf (1944):** The largest naval battle in history, involving over 200 ships and 1,000 aircraft, showcasing the Navy's ability to conduct complex amphibious operations.

Along with battle experience, technological advancements played a significant role in shaping the Navy's fighting doctrine:

- **Steam propulsion:** Allowed ships to maneuver more effectively and engage in longer-range combat.
- **Ironclad armor:** Protected ships from enemy fire, making them more resilient in battle.
- **Long-range artillery:** Increased the range and accuracy of gunfire, extending the Navy's reach.
- **Submarines:** Introduced a new level of stealth and vulnerability, requiring the development of anti-submarine tactics.
- **Aircraft carriers:** Revolutionized naval warfare, providing the ability to project power from the air.
- **Radar:** Enhanced the Navy's ability to detect and track enemy ships and aircraft.

The evolution of fighting doctrine in the Navy from 1898 to 1945 was driven by a combination of battle experience and technological advancements. From the Age of Sail to the advent of aircraft carriers, the Navy has continuously adapted its tactics and strategies to meet the challenges of an ever-changing maritime environment. The lessons learned and innovations

developed during this period continue to shape the Navy's fighting doctrine today.



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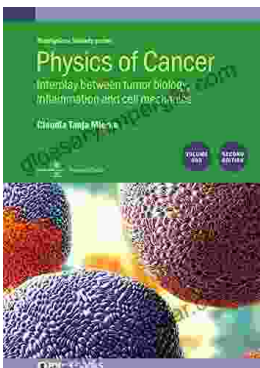
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