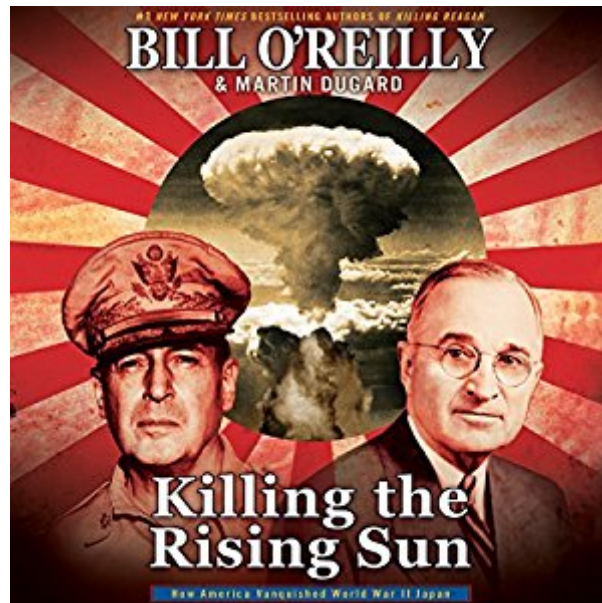




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# **Killing The Rising Sun: How America Vanquished World War II Japan**



## Synopsis

The powerful and riveting new audiobook in the multimillion-selling Killing series by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard. Autumn 1944. World War II is nearly over in Europe but is escalating in the Pacific, where American soldiers face an opponent who will go to any length to avoid defeat. The Japanese army follows the samurai code of Bushido, stipulating that surrender is a form of dishonor. Killing the Rising Sun takes listeners to the bloody tropical-island battlefields of Peleliu and Iwo Jima and to the embattled Philippines, where General Douglas MacArthur has made a triumphant return and is plotting a full-scale invasion of Japan. Across the globe in Los Alamos, New Mexico, Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer and his team of scientists are preparing to test the deadliest weapon known to mankind. In Washington, DC, FDR dies in office, and Harry Truman ascends to the presidency only to face the most important political decision in history: whether to use that weapon. And in Tokyo, Emperor Hirohito, who is considered a deity by his subjects, refuses to surrender despite a massive and mounting death toll. Told in the same pause-resistant style of Killing Lincoln, Killing Kennedy, Killing Jesus, Killing Patton, and Killing Reagan, this epic saga details the final moments of World War II like never before.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have never really known too much about the Pacific theater in WWII. This book educated me, battle by battle, island by island. Politician by politician. This was serious business and I probably should not say this but the Japanese fighting techniques and treatment of prisoners reminded me so much of what we read and see of Isis today. War crimes were the norm. Many pages in the book I

could not read, just too intense, violent and depraved. I did not ever really understand that Japan had taken over almost all of the Pacific, the Philippines, all the islands and even a large part of China (they were headed for Russia) and also Korea. Americans were dying sometimes 20,000 in a day in one battle. The Japanese took similar casualties once the Americans learned the kind of war that was being fought. Horror after horror. Some understanding of the men building the atomic bomb...basically some were reluctant but went along and some just plain but brilliant nuts. Used to have respect for McArthur and some of the other generals, I mean schools are named after them...right? But some were egotistical, did not see their men as anything but expendable numbers and fame and glory was their goal. These did not seem to see one day of battle. BUT, other officers and generals were the opposite, caring for their men, fighting with them and suffering much pain and PTSD symptoms along with their men. A couple that were mentioned even killed themselves 20-25 years after the war for the guilt they carried for not protecting them enough. I had a better understanding as to why the decision was made to use atomic weapons. The Japanese were given several chances to surrender and continued on. The Japanese people seemed weary of it all but not the soldiers and for sure not their emperor. He had the biggest ego of all. This book was disturbing, and well written and if you read it then you will never view war the same again. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn about the Pacific part of WWII but beware --it is tough stuff to read.

Having seen my share of combat in Vietnam I was very apprehensive about reading this book. It came highly recommended by very good friends so I felt I needed to follow their recommendations. There were a couple of times I had to pause and take a deep breath or two as the attention to detail regarding the results of combat did get to me, but then it is a true depiction of the events before during and after our use of Atomic bombs on Japan. Anyone who reads this book thinking there's some sort of romance to war will soon change their minds. I can now say with confidence that war in '45 was just as brutal and nauseating in '65 and has never been romantic.

As a child of a WWII veteran I have been forever grateful that President Truman made the very difficult decision to drop the bomb on Japan. I think the book could have better portrayed his anguished decision. My future dad was on one of the troop ships headed for Japan when the bomb hit. His ship immediately turned and headed home to New York. Simply put, I would most likely not have been one of the "Baby Boomers" otherwise. I think for many readers the unbelievable cruelty caused by Japan and the terrible loss of life by the allied forces in the Pacific may be very eye

opening to many. Although the Batan March was only mentioned, my husband and I worked with a survivor and can attest to the long term affects of the trauma he faced. He was truly remarkable. Only when the company representatives came into our manufacturing building in Norwood, MA in the 70s was it understood that no Japanese person would ever be introduced to him nor was he ever to come in contact with them under any circumstances. I'm glad I read the book.

I am a little older than the Author and it brought back memories of when I was eight years old. I had three uncles that served in the European and Far East. One fought and was wounded in Iwo Jima, another fought in battle of the Bulge, uncle Charles Demaio was captured when McArthur left the Philippines. He survived the Batan Death march for three years he was captured and can attest to horrific treatment Japanese inflicted on POW.

This is the latest book in the Killing series and O'Reilly went in a different direction by writing about the killing of an empire instead of a single person and it worked. The only thing I don't like about the killing series is that they talk a lot about other things that are going on around the time and the actual killing is a small part of the book. The best part of this book was when the author was writing about the bombing and that was only a chapter or two. The rest of the book is interesting, but there are some boring parts. Overall I think this a good series and I will continue to keep reading them.

I am totally shocked at how the Japanese people were. They were barbarians! There is nothing like true history and Bill O'Reilly's books are well written, researched. I am 85 years old & remember much of the war, more the conflict with Germany than with Japan. I will never forget where I was when the news of Pearl Harbor came over the radio. President Truman made the correct decision with the Atomic Bomb.

I have been a fan of O'Reilly and his Killing series since the 1st book, "Killing Lincoln". Still the best in an outstanding series, however Killing the Rising Sun is right there with it. The in depth documentation of the Japanese motivation for going after Pearl Harbor and the aftermath of such a decision is explored in depth. You get to meet the players involved from the American side beginning with the Marine Private enduring the expansive Island hopping to the Generals and President of the U.S. We get to meet the Japanese Emperor and his God like image to the Japanese public and military and get more understanding of the dishonor felt by those who surrendered. The whole American military strategy to get close enough to the Japanese Island to

get airfields to launch our bombers on their cities. The main idea presented was the question and answer to the ending with atomic weapons and the reason it had to be done. Very intriguing history that is not often known by the younger generations of each country.

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