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USS Iowa at War

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Lloyd has skillfully juxtaposed important documents in a way that highlights the stark differences between Hoover and Roosevelt. Even historians who are wholly familiar with the public materials and private letters included in this volume will appreciate viewing them in one collection arranged in such a logical manner. Readers with little knowledge of these sources will profit especially from the author's efforts.

The book's introduction is disappointing, however, because frequent typos and other stylistic errors bespeak a poor job of copy editing. More importantly, an inadequate discussion of historiography in the introduction will disturb students of the New Deal. The author extensively considers the views of obscure texts while giving short shrift or ignoring altogether the interpretations of important recent scholarship on the 1930s. A better job of contextualizing the Roosevelt-Hoover debate would have significantly improved this otherwise thought-provoking book.

USS Iowa at War, by Kit and Carolyn Bonner. The AT WAR Series. St. Paul, MN: Zenith Press, 2007. 127 pp. Illustrations (many in color), index. \$19.95 paper.

Reviewer William M. Johnson is a curator with the State Historical Society of Iowa, where he specializes in the care and interpretation of objects related to natural history, military history, and the history of technology.

The *USS Iowa at War* is a well-illustrated text that falls short of telling the story of the *USS Iowa* (BB61). A sense of confusion begins with the first chapter, "History," when the author describes the current condition of the *Iowa* (BB61) and the origin of Japan's great Yamoto class and America's Montana class but fails to comment on the *Iowa's* lineage. The following chapters provide a variety of information, ranging from the rise of the Dreadnaughts to a chapter on the Soviet Kirov class cruisers. Regrettably, the few chapters concerned with the *USS Iowa's* service are brief and inadequate, with a third of the chapter on World War II dominated by the story of the destroyer *USS William D. Porter*.

A bright spot in the text is the coverage of the tragedy in turret number 2 on April 19, 1989. There the authors establish the history of such explosions and sensitively relate the events and following investigations.

The book is richly illustrated with informative cut lines. Although the depth of information on the *USS Iowa's* service may be lacking, the book is filled with information on other contemporary vessel classes.