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Operation Urgent Fury: Ronald Reagan's War On Grenada



Synopsis

On October 25, 1983, thousands of American Army Rangers, Paratroopers, Marines, Delta Force, and Navy Seals, with massive air and naval support, and armed with the world's most advanced weaponry, descended on an impoverished Caribbean island the size of Nantucket. How is it that the world's mightiest superpower would attack the smallest country in the western hemisphere? "Operation Urgent Fury" traces the sometimes colorful events leading up to the conflict, and pulls together archival accounts of the invasion, some never before published. There is the eccentric Grenadian Prime Minister, who spent most of his time raising UFO awareness, and there is the officious Army staff officer, arriving after the invasion was effectively over, who would later go on to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The lessons of the invasion are sobering. The U.S. military hierarchy came out of it looking incredibly inept. Most of the nineteen U.S. soldiers killed in action were victims of accidents and friendly fire. While Grenada was, as one report puts it, "a minor episode in the sweep of American military history," let us not forget that it came only two days after Islamic terrorists bombed military barracks in Beirut, killing 299 Marines. In that light, the Grenada invasion seems less a war of liberation and more a deadly distraction meant to divert the fickle attention of the public. America was once the champion of great causes. Invading Grenada, America was acting more like a schoolyard bully.

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Customer Reviews

Goggins does an admirable job of making a complicated and convoluted military operation clear. He quickly outlines the political environment in Grenada in very succinct terms. Unfortunately, he drastically underplays - and outright dismisses - the danger to significantly more than "600" US medical students who were far from "partying" while the invasion took place. Goggins takes some pains to acknowledge the 19 American servicemen who were killed in Operation Urgent Fury, but makes light and even mocks the nearly 1,000 US students who feared for their lives and were NOT free to "leave on Pan-Am at will." This gross oversight and ignorant dismissal of one of the primary goals of the US intervention causes one to question the validity of the rest of Goggins' work.

In this short account the authors describe the absurd situation of how the US attacked a tiny island nation presenting zero threat to itself. This nearly forgotten war is significant in showing the beginning of the post-Vietnam trend of renewed offensive action by the US that ultimately led to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This book is a complete waste of time and money. It offers nothing new and has several inaccuracies. Defer to other sources.

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