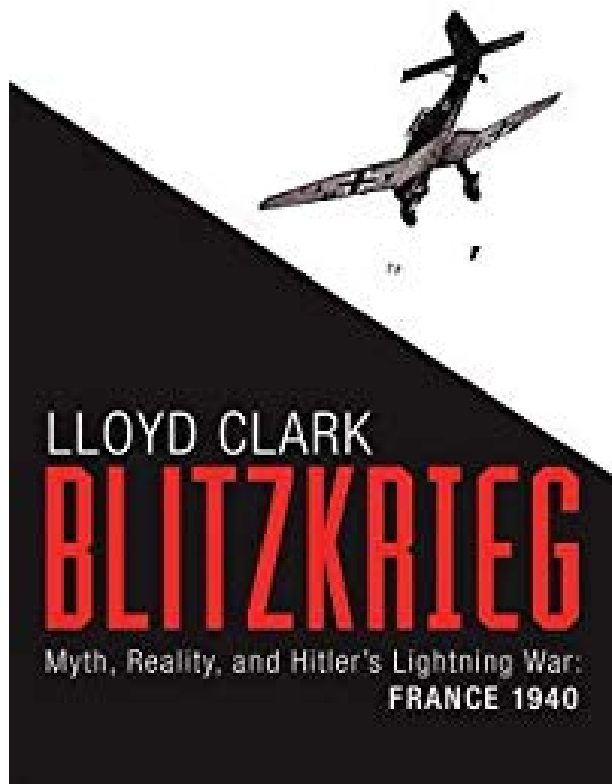


Blitzkrieg: Myth, Reality, and Hitler's Lightning War: France 1940

"Provides a good battlefield view of a crucial phase of World War II . . . Clark focuses not on generals and premiers but on the voices and experiences of the soldiers involved." —New York Times Book Review



Author:	Lloyd Clark
Genre:	War
ISBN13:	9780802127211
Goodreads Rating:	3.00
Published:	September 19th 2017 by Grove Press
Language	English
Pages:	457
ISBN10:	0802127215

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In the spring of 1940, Nazi Germany launched a military offensive in France and the Low Countries that married superb intelligence, the latest military thinking, and new technology. In just six weeks the Nazis outflanked the large French army, sowed chaos, and took Paris, achieving what the Germans had failed to accomplish in all four years of the First World War. The Fall of France was a stunning victory. It altered the balance of power in Europe in one stroke and convinced the entire world that the Nazi war machine was unstoppable. But as Lloyd Clark, a leading British military historian and academic, argues in *Blitzkrieg*, much of our understanding of this victory, and blitzkrieg itself, is based on myth. The tactic was not really new, and far from being a forgone victory, Hitler's invasion was incredibly risky and could easily have failed had the Allies been even slightly inept or the Germans fortunate. And while speed and mechanization were essential, ninety percent of Germany's ground forces were still reliant on horses, bicycles, and their own feet for transportation. Their surprise victory proved the apex of their achievement; far from being undefeatable, Clark argues, the campaign revealed Germany's vulnerabilities, ones not learned by Hitler as he began to plan for the invasion of the Soviet Union. A definitive history of the events of 1940, *Blitzkrieg* is Lloyd Clark at his best.