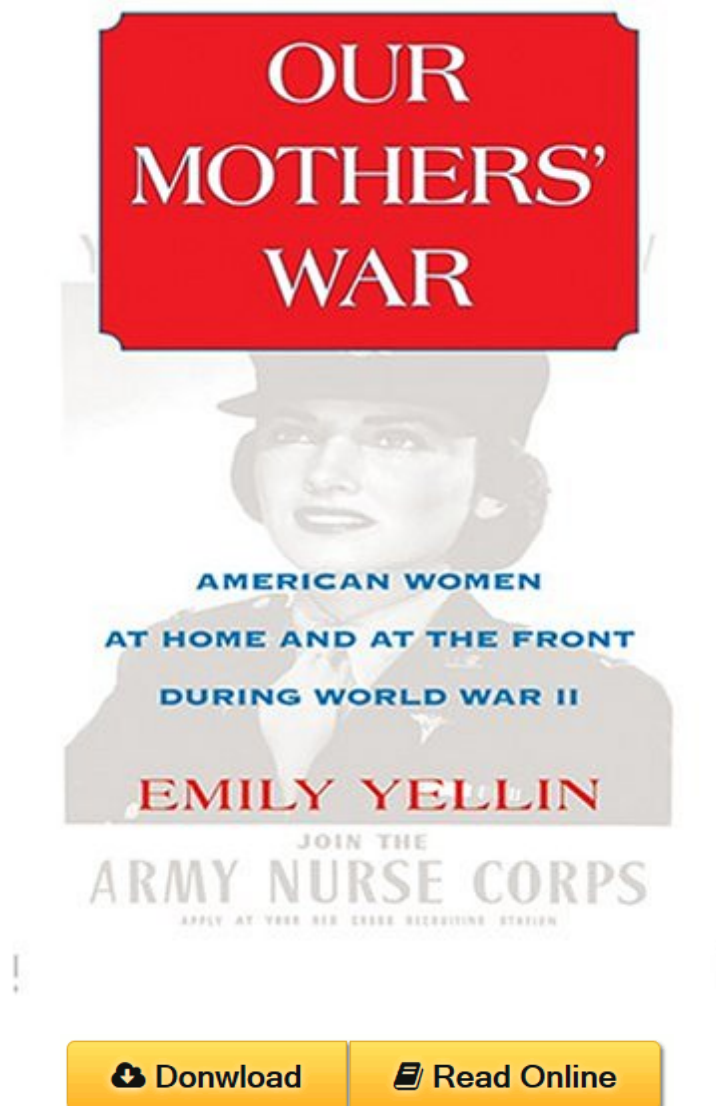


Our Mothers' War: American Women At Home And At The Front During World War II

Emily Yellin

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Emily Yellin : Our Mothers' War: American Women At Home And At The Front During World War II before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Our Mothers' War: American Women At Home And At The Front During World War II:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Without the millions of great women working back in the States during those years By Gerald A. Curtin Brings many subjects involving the effect to women's works in the period 1942-1945 and beyond into discussion and consideration. I found it one of the most interesting and enlightening books about WWII that I have read, particularly with regards to those "left behind". Those "left behind" were invaluable to winning the war. Without the millions of great women working back in the States during those years, we may all be way too fluent in speaking German and Japanese, without our desire of doing so. 2 of 2 people found the following review

helpful. but Yellin does a beautiful job revealing what has been hidden and telling stories ...By parallelFrom WACs to Rosies to traitors to spies and beyond, Emily Yellin spans the scope of women's roles in WWII. Research of this kind is difficult because it isn't the main focus of the war years, but Yellin does a beautiful job revealing what has been hidden and telling stories that illuminate the lives of half the American population. The personal connection is deftly woven into the larger context and makes for a satisfying whole. Well-worth the read.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great job by some brave womenBy USMC SniperThis is a real history book. My own mother worked in the Norden Bomb sight factory during WWII while neighbors looked after me. In those days most Americans looked after each other while the fathers, sons, uncles, brothers and the husbands were off at war. Mine father was in Europe. The newer generations are not aware of the sacrifices of the women during WWII. Had it not been for them joining the effort we would have used many more men and many would not have survive. Great job by some brave women.

Our Mothers' War is a stunning and unprecedented portrait of women during World War II, a war that forever transformed the way women participate in American society. Never before has the vast range of American women's experience during this pivotal era been brought together in one book. Now, Emily Yellin re-creates what American women from all walks of life were doing and thinking, on the home front and abroad.

From Publishers WeeklyAfter years of planting Victory gardens, volunteering at USOs and coping with increased home front responsibilities, in early 1945 Yellin's mother quit her desk job at Reader's Digest and shipped out to the Pacific Front to join the Red Cross. Wartime manpower shortages were bending gender rules, and many women seized the opportunity to try something different. While feminist historians have analyzed the meaning of their war experience, ?ournalist Yellin takes a more subjective approach. This nonjudgmental, anecdotal account covers the usual range of topicswomen in war industries, in volunteer work, in the armed forces, in undercover operationsbut Yellin avoids retelling the familiar. Thus, she discusses the experiences of Lena Horne and Julia Child more fully than those of Eleanor Roosevelt, and delves deeper into the anti-Semitic Mothers' Movement and Hawaiian prostitutes walking picket lines than more mainstream organizations like the CIO women's committees. Yellin describes the exclusion of African-American women from most military units and the internment of Japanese-American women, but adds little to present scholarship on minority women's participation. Indeed, since her most original material comes from interviews with relatives, family friends and contacts, the book is strongest on the experiences of educated white women, which were surprisingly diverse. For WAVES director Mildred McAfee the president of Wellesley College before the warlife in the navy took her out of her "cloister" and thrust her into a world where "women are women and men are men." For others, like Yellin's mother, the war let their genies out of the bottle. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From School Library JournalAdult/High SchoolAn exceptionally well-written, exhaustively researched book. During World War II, females were confined to auxiliary roles. Yellin reveals all of the responsibilities held by women, including helping to manufacture aircraft, ships, and other munitions; and, in the process, outproducing all of America's allies and enemies, by far. Readers see war brides who worked hard to maintain the morale of their husbands while surviving long separation, fear, and shortages of virtually everything necessary to support a family. Yellin writes about performers like Betty Grable, who traveled to combat theaters to raise the spirits of soldiers, sailors, and airmen. Our Mothers' War is an important book because the role played by women in World War II has been regularly ignored.Alan Gropman, National Defense University, Washington, DC Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistYellin, motivated by the discovery of a journal her mother kept while serving in the Red Cross in Saipan during World War II, began researching the experiences of a wide cross section of women during the war years. Women from a variety of social, financial, religious, and cultural backgrounds answered the call to serve their families and their country in heretofore unthinkable ways. Proving themselves to be equal partners in the fellowship of the "greatest generation," these wives, daughters, mothers, sisters, and friends forged new identities for themselves while breaking down significant gender barriers for subsequent generations of women. Drawn from letters, diaries, and interviews, these first-person accounts and^B reminiscences are woven together and placed into historical context by Yellin's unobtrusive narrative. Allowing her subjects' eloquent voices to speak for themselves, she provides a fascinating slice of social history. Margaret FlanaganCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved