



# **The Enemy in Our Hands: America's Treatment of Prisoners of War from the Revolution to the War on Terror**

*Robert Doyle*

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Revelations of abuse at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison and the U.S. detention camp at Guantánamo Bay had repercussions extending beyond the worldwide media scandal that ensued. The controversy surrounding photos and descriptions of inhumane treatment of enemy prisoners of war, or EPWs, from the war on terror marked a watershed moment

in the study of modern warfare and the treatment of prisoners of war. Amid allegations of human rights violations and war crimes, one question stands out among the rest: Was the treatment of America's most recent prisoners of war an isolated event or part of a troubling and complex issue that is deeply rooted in our nation's military history?

Military expert Robert C. Doyle's *The Enemy in Our Hands: America's Treatment of Prisoners of War from the Revolution to the War on Terror* draws from diverse sources to answer this question. Historical as well as timely in its content, this work examines America's major wars and past conflicts?among them, the American Revolution, the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and Vietnam?to provide understanding of the United

States' treatment of military and civilian prisoners. *The Enemy in Our Hands* offers a new perspective of U.S. military history on the subject of EPWs and suggests that the tactics employed to manage prisoners of war are unique and disparate from one conflict to

the next. In addition to other vital information, Doyle provides a cultural analysis and exploration of U.S. adherence to international standards of conduct, including the 1929 Geneva Convention in each war.

Although wars are not won or lost on the basis of how EPWs are treated, the treatment of prisoners is one of the measures by which history's conquerors are judged.

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