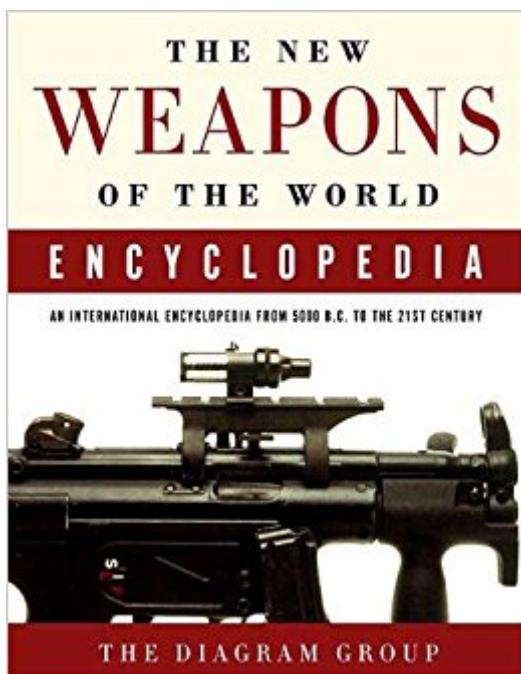


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The New Weapons Of The World Encyclopedia: An International Encyclopedia From 5000 B.C. To The 21st Century



Synopsis

Weapons is one of the bestselling books on armament ever published. This definitive guide covers the entire history of weapons, from the earliest, most primitive instruments up to remarkable advances in modern defense and warfare. The new edition includes weapons used in Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Israel-Lebanon conflict, such as: Improvised Explosive Devices Blackout bombs Unmanned aerial vehicles TV guided bombs Current Small Arms Electric Stun Guns And more!Comprehensively illustrated, with hundreds of color diagrams, charts, photographs and much more, Weapons is the encyclopedia of virtually every arsenal ever invented. This guide will appeal to warfare fans, military and history buffs and any reader interested in the invention, development and use of weapons over the course of human history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Diagram Group are the successful publishers of many illustrated encyclopedias, including Rules of the Game published by St. Martin's Press.

This is the third edition of "Weapons" from the Diagram Group. Taken on its own it is very good; a rare, possibly unique work among references on arms; it is organized by function rather than era, region, or alphabetically. Accordingly, you'll see a current police baton on the same page as a several thousand year old club. The functions begin with arming the hand (a rock, for example) and

proceeds (more or less) by complexity, ending with aircraft, missiles, nukes, etc. Without a doubt, there are better works on weapons of an individual era, or specific classes of weapons, but there is no better survey or overview of weapons. The omissions that I noticed were extremely rare (and dead-end) technologies that even soi-disant experts might be ignorant of. True, not every rifle ever manufactured is mentioned, but every major operating principle is. On the other hand, it included some little-known and exotic arms that illustrated major principles, for example, the 13mm air rifle that was used by the Austrians during the Napoleonic wars. Exotic, but not included because it is exotic, included to illustrate the principles of projectile weapons that use compressed gas as propellant (rather than a chemical reaction). But as a "third edition" it leaves much to be desired. The basic work from 1980 is reprinted in its entirety, with two blocks of content added in the two following editions. This wasn't too bad in the second edition, published in the 1990s, but in this one, it creates the appearance that Diagram Group was just coming back to a money maker without applying the same standards of production used in the first one. This could be fixed by revising the small arms section to include rifles, pistols, and machine guns developed in the past ten years, rather than throwing recent developments in the a pile at the end. The practice of merely lumping new material in the sections at the end of the book also defeats the purpose of a reference organized by function rather than time period, detracting from what makes this work most useful and interesting. For what it is, a survey of tools of violence, "Weapons" is without equal. The organization makes it very accessible and easy to use, despite the editorial decisions in this third edition. Throughout, the authors write in such a way as to educate without a condescending or arrogant tone. I still can't recommend it highly enough. E.M. Van Court

We got the hard back book at the library and order this paperback. However the paperback book looked liked a photo copy of the hard back. It had terrible print quality and many pages had a dark rectangle around the edges showing where they had been copied. It is not good quality and I will be returning. As far as the content itself my 15 year old was wanting more information and details about the weaponry.

The two stars is strictly for the print quality of this edition of The New Weapons of the world. This copy looks as though an intern photocopied different pages torn out of previous editions, some of the pages are fuzzy and nearly illegible. This is a great reference book, but only purchase if you can flip through the copy in your hands first. Buyer beware!

This book does cover a lot of ground, but it is very heavy on extremely early weapons and very light of the more modern ones which was a big disappointment. I guess the bigger problem is that as another reviewer noted, it is very poorly written and the layout is so bad it is beyond words.

One of the best books on weapons. I remember reading the 2nd edition of this book back when I was in 8th grade at the school library and when I found out that they updated it a third time I had to buy it.

This book is obviously the best weapon(s) book encyclopedia you can get. I mean the bibliography contains well-written info on all the weapons we man have created with well-drawn diagrams from prehistoric to modern times. I recommend this to anyone whether they're a weapons enthusiast or a history buff.

I bought this book as a gift and found myself flipping through the pages to see all of the interesting weapons used throughout history by different cultures. The recipient of the book also enjoyed looking through the book.

This is a gift for someone and I just glanced through it for a bit. I know someone who will be very happy with this Christmas present! Great pictures with wonderful ways to describe the weapons. This is good for kids and adults alike!

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