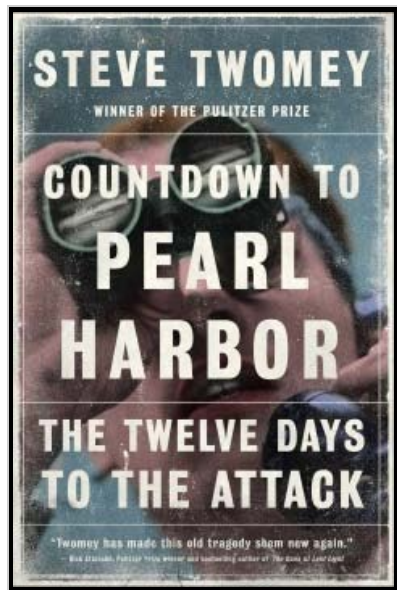


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## Countdown to Pearl Harbor

The Twelve Days to the Attack  
by Steve Twomey

Price: \$30.00(Hardcover)  
Published: November 01, 2016

★★★★★  
Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

**From the Publisher:** A fascinating look at the twelve days leading up to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor—the warnings, clues and missteps—by a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter.

In Washington, DC, in late November 1941, admirals compose the most ominous message in Navy history to warn Hawaii of possible danger, but they write it too vaguely. They think precautions are being taken, but never check to see if they are. A key intelligence officer wants more warnings sent, but he is on the losing end of a bureaucratic battle and can't get the message out. American sleuths have pierced Japan's most vital diplomatic code, and Washington believes it has a window on the enemy's soul—but it does not.

In a small office at Pearl Harbor, overlooking the battleships at the heart of America's seafaring power, the Commander of the Pacific Fleet tries to figure out how much danger he...

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### About The Author

**Steve Twomey**  
Steve Twomey began his career in journalism as a copyboy at the *Chicago Tribune* when he was in high school. After graduating from Northwestern University, he began a fourteen-year career at *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, during which he won the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing, and then worked...

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### What We Say

A solid, straight-forward account of the twelve days leading up to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. That may be more of an accomplishment than I appreciate, since Pearl Harbor is an event ripe for conspiracy theory and exaggeration. I haven't read widely on it and this popular history seems quite reasonable. Pulitzer Prize winner Steve Twomey combs through the available record and brings to life the many disparate personalities, hidebound traditions, racism and simple human error that led to the US being caught flat-footed on December 7, 1941. Twomey makes a hash of the suggestion that

FDR knew about the upcoming attack and let it happen. How? Common sense, dogged connecting of the dots, the public record, private thoughts and mostly by showing how it did happen and why FDR clearly didn't want to fight a war on two fronts since he didn't have the Navy to do so even BEFORE it was decimated by the Japanese. Finally, the attack was stupendously risky and bold and even the very few in the US who considered the remote possibility didn't really take it seriously. But don't let that sideshow of paranoia distract you. Twomey mostly spends his time illuminating the many people caught up in the moment with empathy and insight. He doesn't look for villains but neither does he look away when someone behaves foolishly. It makes this tragic history feel far from inevitable but perfectly understandable, a convergence of little errors and happenstance culminating in tragedy. -- Michael Giltz

## What Others Say

“A fine, compelling account of the immediate prelude to that infamous day in December 1941. Through dogged research and graceful writing, Steve Twomey has made the old tragedy seem new again.” - Rick Atkinson, Pulitzer Prize winner and bestselling author of *The Guns at Last Light*

“Steve Twomey has accomplished something remarkable with *Countdown to Pearl Harbor*. With deep reporting and vivid writing, he has illumined one of the most momentous events of the twentieth century in stunningly new and penetrating light.”

- David Maraniss, Pulitzer Prize winner and bestselling author of *They Marched into Sunlight*

“Steve Twomey is a masterful storyteller. Mining new and overlooked records, he has made the Pearl Harbor story new again—suspenseful, dramatic, intensely human, and tragic.” - Evan Thomas, bestselling author of *Sea of Thunder*

“With thrilling speed and elegant craftsmanship, Steve Twomey recounts the catastrophe of Pearl Harbor as a classic tale of human nature—its glories and its flaws. A wonderful, heartbreaking book.” - David Von Drehle, author of *Triangle: The Fire That Changed America*

“A pulse-quickenning...

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