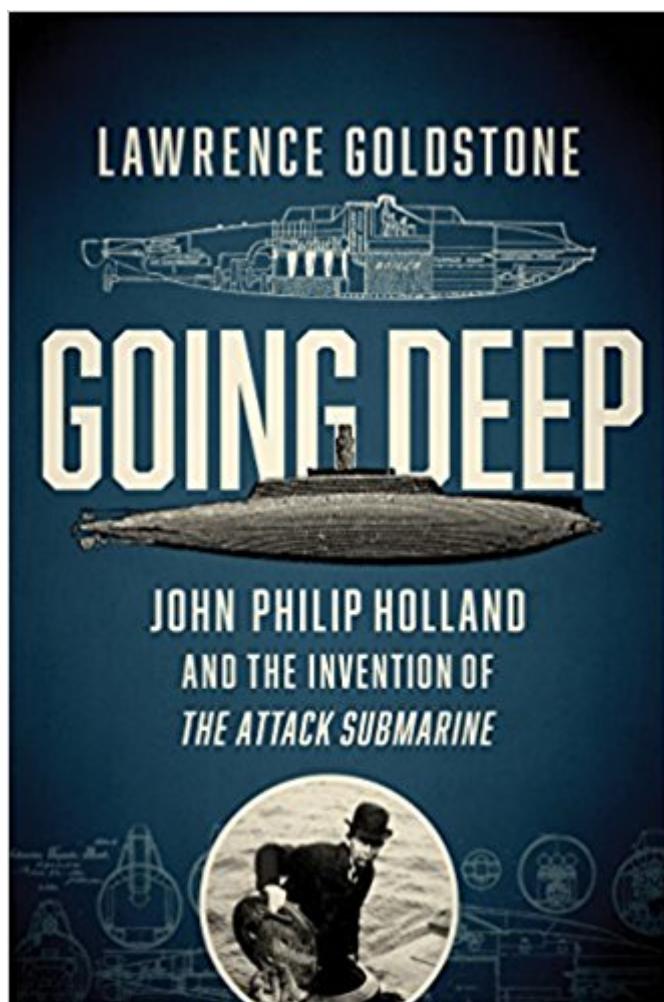


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Going Deep: John Philip Holland And The Invention Of The Attack Submarine



Synopsis

The controversial history of the attack submarineâ "and the story of its colorful creator, John Philip Hollandâ "that reveals how this imaginative invention changed the face of modern warfare. From Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea to The Hunt for Red October, readers the world over have demonstrated an enduring fascination with travel under the sea. Yet the riveting story behind the invention of the submarineâ "an epic saga of genius, persistence, ruthlessness, and deceitâ "is almost completely unknown. Like Henry Ford and the Wright brothers, John Philip Holland was completely self-taught, a brilliant man raised in humble circumstances, earning his living as a schoolteacher and choirmaster. But all the while he was obsessed with creating a machine that could successfully cruise beneath the waves. His struggle to unlock the mystery behind controlled undersea navigation would take three decades, during which he endured skepticism, disappointment, and betrayal. But his indestructible belief in himself and his ideas led him to finally succeed where so many others had failed. Going Deep is a vivid chronicle of the fierce battles not only under the water, but also in the back rooms of Wall Street and the committee rooms of Congress. A rousing adventureâ "surrounded by an atmosphere of corruption and greedâ "at its heart this a story of bravery, passion, and the unbreakable determination to succeed against long odds.

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Customer Reviews

I had a hard time with the first 3 -4 chapters but as it got closer to 1880 it got better , very interesting.

For any fan of submarine books, this is the base. How it all began. It's not big on fighting boats, but gets you the basics on how it all began. 4 Stars, good read. Not the most exciting, but information is packed in every chapter.

We generally say that Orville and Wilbur Wright invented the airplane, which is not technically correct, but we say it anyway. The popular ideal is that, for everything that is invented, there is one inventor (well, two, in the case of the Wrights) who gets all of the credit for the invention. Certainly the Patent Office sees it that way. But that's not usually how invention works. As the Wrights would be able to tell you themselves, they never would have been able to develop the first functional airplane had other people not first invented the lightweight gasoline engine that they used to power it, or the propeller, or any of the other elements that they put together successfully. The airplane was not one discrete invention; like most things, it is a combination of many different inventions put together in a unique way. The same thing is true of your car, your smartphone and, of course, nuclear submarines. GOING DEEP is about the history of innovation in the construction of submarines. Lawrence Goldstone tells us of a 16th-century English mathematician who allegedly came up with the concept of the undersea boat, but he does not seem to have built one. Goldstone lovingly and patiently chronicles the various attempts by patriots and promoters to build submarines. It is not a litany of success. The concept of the submarine is simple enough, and crude submarines were built as early as the Revolutionary War. The difficulty in making a submarine that would be useful as a weapon of war was in two critical areas: propulsion and weaponry. The ill-fated American Turtle was supposed to drill holes in enemy hulls as a means of planting explosives aboard them. The even more ill-fated Hunley was manned by a small crew of sailors operating a crank. It would take a half-century of engineering advances before the submarine was ready to be more than a novel way to kill its operators. Goldstone focuses on John Philip Holland, an immigrant

Irishman who solved most of the problems that plagued prior innovators. Holland originally developed his submarine concepts in the pay of Irish rebels exiled to America, with the idea of countering the supremacy of the English fleet. But as the payments (out of the wonderfully named “Skirmishing Fund”) dried up, Holland continued his research with an eye towards building submarines for the Navy. Holland’s genius solved problems such as the buoyancy of submarines, ballasting and how submarines change depth. After a visit to the Philadelphia centennial exposition, he paired his submarine ideas with powerful gasoline engines to solve the propulsion problem. He partnered with a New York financier named Isaac Rice to provide funding, and was able to develop the Navy’s interest in purchasing submarines. While the first half of *GOING DEEP* is a fascinating historical account of the development of modern submarines, the second half is focused mainly on the rivalry between Holland and fellow developer Simon Lake, who was inspired by Jules Verne to create submarines that could run on wheels on the ocean floor. Both Lake and Holland were vying for the same limited pool of defense contract money, and so the tale veers out of the drydocks and drafting tables and into the halls of the Gilded Age Congress.

Goldstone dives deep into the various machinations that both sides used to convince the Navy to buy their submarines. He devotes the same precise research and analysis to the political struggles, but the subject matter of the back-and-forth of Congressional committees isn’t nearly as compelling and interesting as the details of submarine construction. Goldstone is a superb historian, and *GOING DEEP* is simply the best book you will read about the development of submarine technology in the Gilded Age. The innovations developed by Holland and Lake would, in time, go on to shake the world. As Holland lay dying in 1914, Germany was preparing a submarine fleet that would end Britain’s dominance of the Atlantic sea lanes. As Lake lay dying in 1945, American submarines had devastated the Japanese merchant marine. And the Navy submarines constructed by the company that Holland helped found still patrol the waters of the world, ready to strike if danger approaches. Reviewed by Curtis Edmonds.

This is a fascinating book about the early development of the modern submarine. The stories, back room politicking, politics, wheeling and dealing in the boardrooms, and characters within the book would make an incredible mini-series. The book starts in the 1600’s and provides some interesting history and background along with discussion of the various engineering principles of submarines. (nothing super technical, just general concepts for those of you considering the book who aren’t engineers or technicians) Most of the book covers the years 1880 through the early part of the 20th century. If you have any interest in the early history of submarines, this is the book for you. Most

Excellent!

I have over 50 books on submarines and more 30 DVDs/ Blu-Rays of submarines. This book is outstanding scholarship. A well-researched reference book done by a talented writer - that reads like a novel. I could not put it down. The best book that was ever been written on the early submarine. Any professional submariner must have this book. I am sure that Admiral Rickover, God Bless Him, would find it excellent as well.

The characters involved with the development of submarines make this a fascinating book, in its own right. But the technology also draws one in. Submariners and submarine veterans (like me) are likely to find it worthwhile. The ugly politics of government procurement is dragged out in gory detail. It reminds me of the episodes involving P. Takis Veliotis and Admiral Rickover. For example: <https://www..com/Running-Critical-Rickover-General-Dynamics/dp/0060914416>

I classify Lawrence Goldstone's book entitled GOING DEEP as one of the most fantastic and interesting reads on history of the Gilded Age viva the completion of the invention and delivery of the attack submarines. He makes history interesting and complex!!!!!!! I would recommend this book to history buffs and also to people that are interested in an excellent read and a well-researched book that reveals why history is history!!!!!!

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