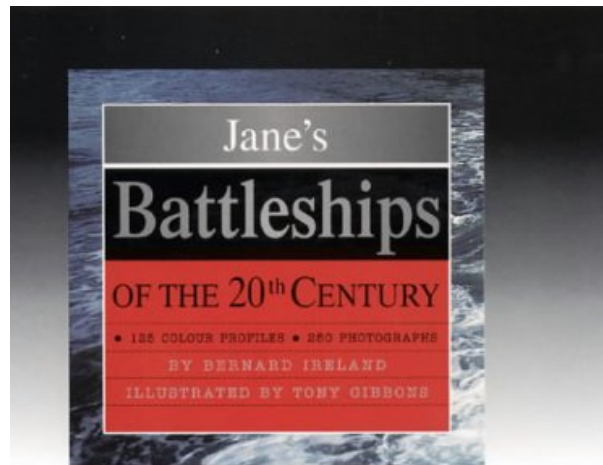
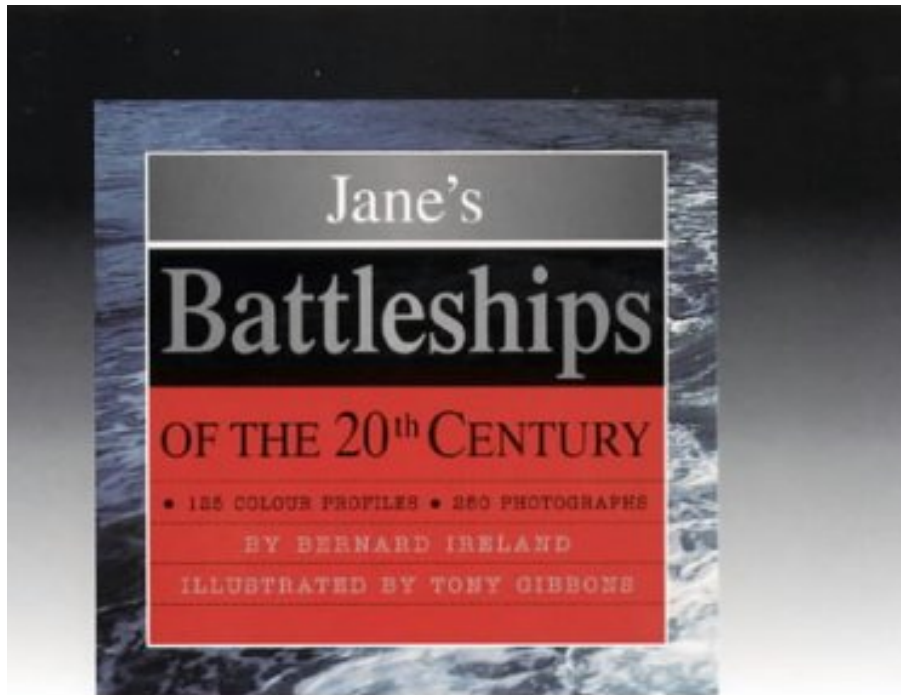


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## **From the Publisher**

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## **About the Author**

*Jane's* is a military publisher that supplies reference books, magazines, and multimedia packages to the professional market, including the Pentagon.

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Concise information, but errors abound

By J. Slavitt

This is a book that you want to like because it is a nice concise country-by-country review of battleships and battlecruisers from approximately 1900 to the present. The book also includes a number of nice anecdotes in an attempt to bring the ships to life by connecting them to the men who fought them and the events that they were involved in. All this aside, however, there are some unconscionable errors. The author completely misses an entire series of British battlecruisers represented by the New Zealand, Australia and Indomitable. These were pivotal ships, yet to the author of this book it appears they never existed. There are also several notable omissions of ships that belonged to certain British and American battleship classes -- how do you lose or forget about a ship? And the author gives pretty short shrift to a series of very important American battleships from the late teens and early 1920's that shaped the Japanese response to America's naval strategic doctrine -- the author just sort of compresses these ships onto one page, which is a real pity. There are other contradictions in terms of describing one ship being "well-armored" but another ship with equivalent specs not being well-armored (you really can't have this both ways). And while, nice at the end of the day the anecdotes are so short as to be a historical tease rather than a substantial benefit. The author has the right idea, but he needs to apply further research and perhaps convince his editor to give him about a hundred more pages to work with.

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

a missed opportunity for a good reference

By Claudio Bompadre

Seapower competition is history of strategic gambles and capital ships were the instruments to achieve control of sealanes. This volume presents a review of the most important units and classes that were the mainstays of fleets. Unfortunately this work is not organic because the author provides only a limited description of design and construction evolution of battleships and battlecruisers.

The review of ship characteristics falls short of expectations since it fails to produce a good assessment of seakeeping features and of operational capabilities. Limited facts are reported to explain technical improvements implemented during ship life span to match the neverending changes in strategies. Just few hints are shown to reveal topmost aspects and defects of each design with some information on consequential wartime limitations imposed during active service. Interspersed with descriptions of most important naval engagements and with summaries of most significant doctrines for naval warfare, this work gives only a superficial insight of opposing requirements that had been involved in planning, designing and building a battleship; in facts a short study for each class is presented without giving details of research and innovations in naval architecture that earmarked the field. A missing part is a wide overview of naval artillery. Since

guns were among the leading specifications in launching a new class, it is odd that a better explanation of armament development is not covered.

Good points in this book are the nice color profiles, sometimes completed with plan and bow views. Unfortunately no scales are indicated, so being of limited use for modelers.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Pleasant, well-presented and very readable

By T. D. Welsh

This is my favourite reference book on battleships, just because it is so attractively balanced. Coloured diagrams of most classes mentioned, together with plentiful photographs, supplement very readable text descriptions. Before the end of the contents, the reader has been thrilled by photographs of Royal Sovereign, Resolution and Revenge (seen from the next ship ahead in line), the pre-dreadnought Agamemnon, and Malaya in company with Alabama and South Dakota off the coast of Norway.

The layout is a bit capricious, with some classes being relegated to brief mentions or telescoped into the sections on similar ships. Now and then, the author sees fit to pop in a "feature" - for instance the account of Heligoland Bight and the Falklands that appears opposite the text on the Invincible class battlecruisers. These are welcome, although they sometimes break up the logical progression of designs through the years.

I am not qualified to judge the book's accuracy, so I cannot dispute or confirm any statements made on this score. At least there were no errors gross enough to leap off the page at me.

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