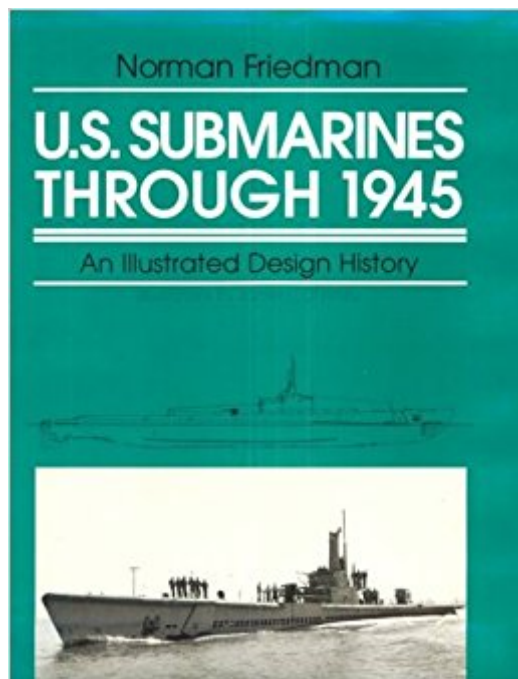




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# U.S. Submarines Through 1945: An Illustrated Design History (Illustrated Design Histories)



## Synopsis

This series offers detailed descriptions of the evolution of all classes of the principal U.S. combatant types. Each volume is fully illustrated with deck plans, outboard profiles, sketches from major design studies, and numerous detailed photographs. The appendixes contain a wealth of information on ship characteristics and equipment.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This large-format book, the seventh in Friedman's acclaimed design history series, is lavishly illustrated. Detailed inboard profiles of every distinct type of submarine the U.S. Navy bought between 1900 and 1945 (and also types exported by U.S. builders) show how the submarines changed. The accompanying text and extensive captions show why. For example, cross sections reveal how, before 1919, the Electric Boat Company used its patented inventions to gain and maintain superiority over its main rival, the Lake Submarine Company. Numerous drawings of abortive designs illuminate the choices actually made. The period covered by this book was one of radical change for the U.S. Navy. When the modern navy first considered buying a submarine in 1887, it was a coast defense force confined to the Western Hemisphere. The United States became a world power just as its new submarines offered a way of defending its most distant possession, the Philippines, without tying down an expensive fleet. World War I found U.S. submarines in an unexpected role, countering German U-boats in British waters. Then the situation changed again

with unexpected speed. As arms limitation treaties and American politics drastically limited both naval growth and the ability to defend outlying possessions, the United States began to face the real possibility of having to fight across the Pacific. Submarines turned out to be an important part of the solution. They were effective partly because they were backed by brilliant technologists, but more so because the submariners showed enormous imagination. One of their own, Chester Nimitz, commanded the U.S. naval forces that won the Pacific.

Norman Friedman is a prominent naval analyst and the author of more than thirty books covering a range of naval subjects, from warship histories to contemporary defense issues. He is a longtime columnist for *Proceedings* magazine and lives in New York City.

Starting immediately where Friedman's "US Submarines Through 1945" left off, this book traces the breathtaking pace of the evolution of American submarine design, tactics, weapons, and electronics during the Cold War. As with the other books in the "Illustrated Design History" series, it relies heavily on previously classified documents to give the reader a detailed "behind the scenes" insight to the design of these vessels, and how they fit into the overall scheme of American defense policy. The key word here is detail - lots and lots of detail. Every paragraph and photo caption is thick with it, as are the 24 pages of technical notes, and the numerous drawings by the author and James Christley. Numerous paper projects and unbuilt weapons and systems are described, as well as just about every sonar and sensor system installed aboard American submarines between 1945 and 1995. This book is stripped and lean; there aren't wondering tangents to be found here. It's a technical history through and through and doesn't pretend to be anything else. Although I'd recommend this book to anyone seriously interested in submarine design, it's not for the faint of heart. It's "only" 280 pages long, but those 280 pages are incredibly dense and rich. I'd seriously recommend reading Friedman's "Submarine Design & Development" and Polmar's "Cold War Submarines" before tackling this work. Still, this an excellent book for the hardcore submarine buff, who will delight in all the unclassified details not readily found anywhere else. If only Friedman and the USNI would publish a revised and updated edition so people wouldn't have to spend \$70 for a used copy...

Dad loves to read it he was on the USS Drum

Like Friedman's other books on US warship design, his description of the play between evolving

doctrine, organizational imperatives and technical issues to arrive at each class of submarine gives the reader insight not just in what a ship became but also why a ship became. I was a plank owner (original crew) of a SSN-637 class submarine in the early seventies. It was fascinating to see why my ship was built and what her predecessors and successors became. Being interested in Naval Science without being a professional practitioner, Friedman's book hits just the right level of technical detail. This is not a buff book. It is a serious effort to document the design evolution of (mostly) nuclear submarines.

Very thorough book, with good detail

If you're not interested in naval vessels of the U. S. Navy, this would be a terrible book. If you are interested in U. S. naval vessels, it's indispensable. I have several of the authors illustrated design histories already (battleships, aircraft carriers, destroyers, and the post-1945 submarine volume, and they are all great.

It was just as advertised - the sequel to Friedman's first volume, "U.S. Submarines Through 1945". Authoritative and copiously illustrated with pictures and diagrams. Excellent.

Book arrived in excellent shape. The book covers submarines that were first introduced to the US Navy up to 1945. Covers all aspects of the submarine. Would have liked more pictures of WWII subs.

Very educational about the history

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