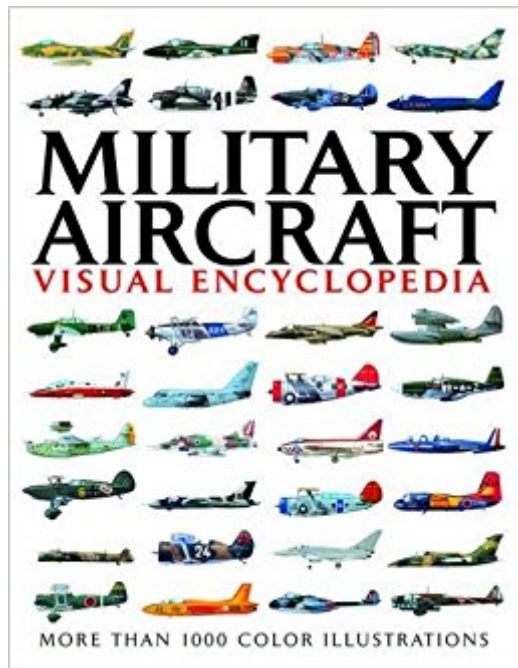




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Visual Encyclopedia Of Military Aircraft



Synopsis

The history of aviation is full of striking and unusual designs, from the biplanes and triplanes of World War I, through the giant bombers and streamlined fighters of World War II and beyond, to the stealthy shapes and unusual configurations of modern military aircraft like the Northrop Grumman B-2 and V-22 Osprey. Military Aircraft Visual Encyclopedia provides a fascinating at-a-glance guide to every major military aircraft type ever flown, all illustrated with a detailed profile artwork, accompanied by brief details and specifications. Common types such as the Spitfire, Ju 87 Stuka, F-86 Sabre and F-4 Phantom are featured with several artworks showing the range of color schemes and operators. Arranged chronologically by type to allow easy comparison, each featured aircraft or variant is illustrated with an excellent full-color artwork, showing in great detail its characteristics and markings, and completed with an informative caption. Many aircraft are illustrated in profile, and others in a head-on view. With over 1000 outstanding color artworks, Military Aircraft Visual Encyclopedia is an authoritatively researched book that celebrates the many diverse designs of more than a century of military aviation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The book has a lot of illustrations, but many of the pages are nothing more than the same aircraft repeated in different color schemes. There are a lot of errors, including several aircraft that are either mislabeled or have the wrong illustration. The descriptions are also extremely brief.

I knew next to nothing about military aircraft before buying this book. My eleven year old son dreams of being a pilot and collects every book on flight or planes he can. I gave him this book for a Christmas present. He lovingly tucked it into his stash, read it in bed, and even carried it with his many Lego volumes. (That is HIGH praise right there!) I have since learned much more about military aircraft! The book is large enough to give him hours of reading. The pictures are clear and detailed. My only complaint is I wish it had a hardcover option. I see clear packaging tape or contact paper in this book's future. ;-)

All of the aircraft in this book are arranged by era, WWI, Golden Age, WWII, Korea, Viet Nam etc (my titles, not the author's) and by Country. This works much better than the alphabetical approach in other encyclopedia. The illustrations are all drawings, not photos, but they're good quality, and the text is succinct but adequate. Overall, I find it to be a useful and accessible reference book.

Continuing his tradition of writing aviation books, Jim Winchester illustrates military aircraft with detailed artwork, specifications, and brief details in this guide, arranging them chronologically by theater or type. One aspect of this book that was lacking in Enzo Angelucci's book on military aircraft is the inclusion of the Myasishchev M-50 Bounder, but also the latest air superiority fighters built by the US and Europe and experimental VTOL aircraft. But again, this book doesn't include helicopters, even though it includes tiltrotors.

In many ways this book is the successor to The Rand McNally Encyclopedia Of Military Aircraft, 1914-1980 by Enzo Angelucci and provides a very good selection of brief summaries of major military aircraft. Despite the low price I found only one major error. The section of the Suez War has a Hawker Seahawk picture repeated twice rather than showing the French F-84 given in the description.

If you want a book with a large number of profile views of aircraft, this is it. If you want a book with accurate description of those aircraft, leave this behind. The text is tiny, and perhaps that is why the editors missed so many obvious errors. And many that would be less obvious to many. In the obvious category, try getting the number of engines wrong for a particular model.

Nicely illustrated, but as another commenter mentioned all the pictures are profile views. Nothing

else. Oddly, propellers are usually missing, but occasionally present. My 6-year-old loves it. I'd prefer something with a few photos to go with the drawings.

The amount of text errors in this book is downright comical. It looks very amateurish, like they didn't have any kind of spell/unit check during the editorial process.

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