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Review of *The Good Allies: How Canada and the United States Fought Together to Defeat Fascism During the Second World War* by Tim Cook

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detailed in a special appendix. Discussing Ismay's positive views about future relations with the Soviet Union, which lasted a surprisingly long time, Kiszely even comments at one point that 'It could have been Chamberlain talking about Germany in 1938'.

Kiszely generally wears his research lightly. He is good at summarising complex events without getting bogged down in detail, and he writes in a clear, readable and engaging style. This book will therefore appeal to readers with an interest in the Second World War in particular, as well as to specialists and modern-day practitioners. Kiszely retired as a senior officer after a career in the British Army and ends with a heartfelt plea to view Ismay as a role model for serving officers, given his marked ability to 'act in the interests of defence as a whole, to view defence within the context of national and international interests, and to act as an exemplar in politico-military cooperation'.

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Tim Cook, *The Good Allies: How Canada and the United States Fought Together to Defeat Fascism During the Second World War*. Toronto: Allen Lane, 2024. 569 pp. (ebook). Price £10.99.

As Canada's leading military historian and Director of Research at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, Ontario, Tim Cook has undertaken his most ambitious task in describing Canadian-American relations during the Second World War. In this work, Cook argues that Canada, under the leadership of Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, became a significant partner to the United States, led by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as both countries formed an alliance to protect North America from the Axis powers. With threats on both the East and West Coasts, King and Roosevelt sought to protect their countries' respective coasts. By defending both coasts with the Royal Canadian Navy, participating in the Kiska campaign to oust Japanese forces, sending military units to Alaska, and creating a continental sphere of defence against the Nazis by placing Canadian forces in Newfoundland, Iceland, and Greenland, Canada proved itself to its southern neighbour as a reliable ally in continental defence amid the war with the Axis forces.

As Cook demonstrates, once North America was secured from the fascist threats aboard, Canada mobilized its industries and armed forces to take the fight overseas. As Canada was rich in mineral resources, the nation greatly supplied Britain with food

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to feed millions of its citizens, distributed aluminium for the development of aircraft material, powered American factories with hydro-electricity, and contributed to the production of atomic bombs through its supply of uranium. With the home front mobilized King also ensured that Canada supported its American and British allies by participating in Atlantic convoy duties, the invasions of Sicily and Italy, the bomber campaign against Germany, the Battle of Normandy, the Scheldt campaign, and the liberation of the Netherlands from Hitler's armies. Indeed, as Cook rightly articulates, 'Canada h[ad] developed during the war years into a nation of importance' (p.494).

Cook's argument is shaped by his application of primary sources, such as Roosevelt's 1938 speech in Kingston, Ontario. The author's utilization of the speech revealed King's fear of the United States: 'The people of the United States will not stand idly by if domination of the Canadian soil is threatened by any other Empire' (p.18). Cook's analysis of the speech highlights that the prime minister feared that Canada could be annexed by the United States if the northern nation could not protect itself from threats abroad. As King navigated the country through a period of uncertainty and external threats, the prime minister worked with Roosevelt and his administration on continental defence, whether through integrating the Canadian and American economies or the creation of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence in 1940 to discuss solutions securing North America from threats abroad, to ease anxieties in Washington that Canada could 'stand on its own feet' during a world war (p.494).

At the centre of Cook's text is Canada's relationship with the United States and Britain. Cook notes that Canada was a junior partner in the alliance and did not contribute to the Allied grand strategy. King and his cabinet at times were excluded from significant discussions, much to King's frustration and dissatisfaction, with their American and British counterparts. And yet, as Cook demonstrates, Canada still supported its allies in the fight against the fascists and contributed in other ways to the Allied grand strategy, including the deployment of a million Canadian military personnel to multiple theatres of combat and the mobilization of an entire home front. King rightly understood that if Canada did not participate in the alliance system, the 'democracies [of the West] would have suffered' (p.494).

Cook's *The Good Allies* is a fascinating text that tells the Canadian-American narrative of the Second World War. It will make a good contribution to the historiography of the war and bring light to Canada's wartime contribution as the Canadian narrative is often excluded from the American narrative of the war. I recommend that Canadian and American graduate history students, military historians, strategists, politicians, economists, and ordinary citizens read this book to understand how the Canadian-American relationship stood together and survived in the war against fascism. Even today, Canadian-American relationships are still strong, despite some minor

disagreements, and since the end of the Second World War, Canada has stood mostly by the United States to show that it is still a neighbour and ally.

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Caitlin Galante DeAngelis, *The Caretakers: War Graves Gardeners and the Secret Battle to Rescue Allied Airmen in World War II*. Essex, CT: Prometheus, 2024. xviii + 338 pp. 3 maps. ISBN 978-1163388899 (hardback). Price £25.

Caitlin Galante DeAngelis offers the first scholarly account of the work of a group of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, formerly the Imperial War Graves Commission (hereinafter the Commission) employees and their families. It adds to a growing body of work to explain the Commission's role. Philip Longworth's *The Unending Vigil* (1985) is devoted to the Commission's formation and work commemorating the dead of both world wars. While Robert Sackville-West's *The Searchers* (2021) offers an overview of commemoration of the First World War dead which ties the work of the Commission in with the wider work of remembrance. David Crane's *Empires of the Dead* (2013) is a biography of the Commission's founder, Sir Fabian Ware. Up until now, there has been little discussion of the ordinary men and women who have worked for the Commission.

DeAngelis gives a detailed account of those British who were left behind when the Germans occupied France in 1940. Despite being let down by the Commission, a substantial number played an active part in resistance to the Germans. The author argues that the Commission badly let down its British staff, many of whom were veterans of the First World War who had stayed in France and in effect left them and their families to their own devices. In contrast, those in Belgium benefitted from a carefully constructed evacuation plan which worked well in difficult circumstances. While in France, the Commission's chief administrative officer, Brigadier Prower told his staff to stay put until instructed otherwise by the civil authorities, believing the French Army to be one of the best in the world and likely to repel any invasion. It was a view held by many including Ware. 39% of the French staff were stranded in France, in contrast, in Belgium only 12% suffered a similar fate. Prower was unsuited to his role in wartime and despite telling others to stay put left with his family ahead of instructions from the authorities, omitting to tell his staff he was doing so. In public,