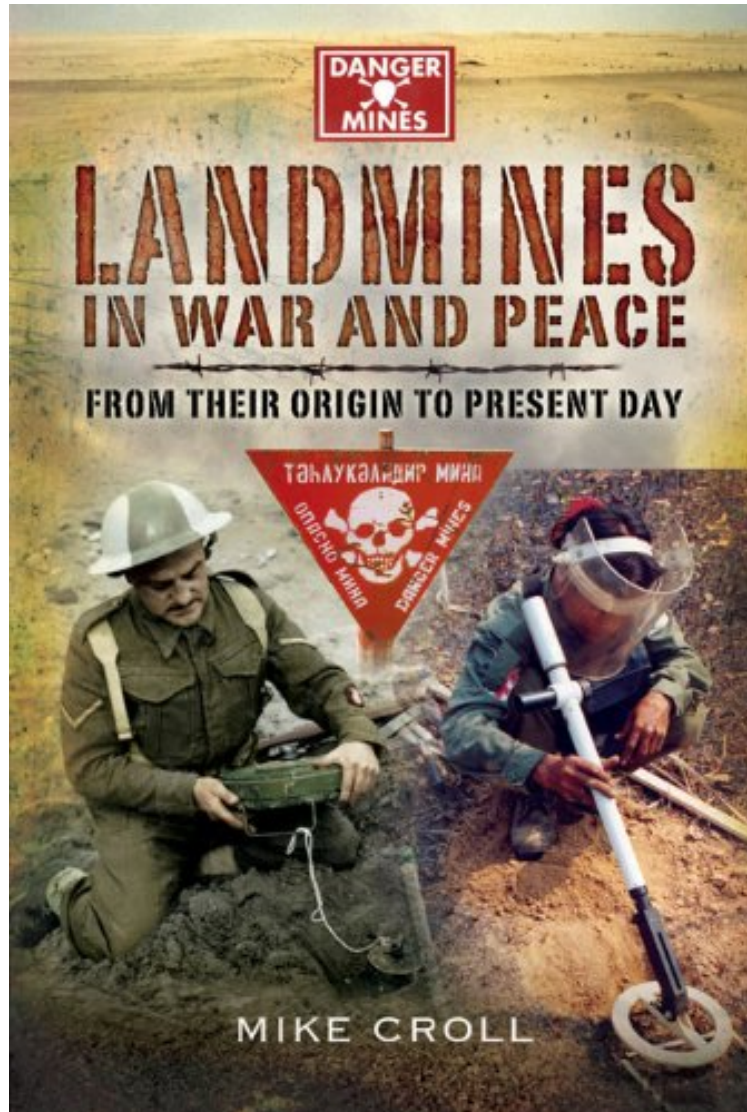




Mike Croll

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(Mobile book) Landmines in War and Peace: From Their Origin to the Present Day

Landmines in War and Peace: From Their Origin to the Present Day

Mike Croll : Landmines in War and Peace: From Their Origin to the Present Day before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Landmines in War and Peace: From Their Origin to the Present Day:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Biased introduction to mines, mine warfare, and mine actionBy dianhouziI learned a few interesting facts about the history of land mines and mines in general, but as the book moves into the current state of affairs, humanitarian demining, and the future of mine use and demining, it becomes less about

presenting information and more about what may be the author's personal beef with The International Campaign to Ban Landmines and alternative demining methods. Croll is clearly experienced with the subject matter, but he does not seem to be capable of looking at the subject from any perspective other than an old-school British Bomb Disposal Officer's perspective. He complains that, following the campaign and the flood of funding that ensued, a much higher percentage of funding has been spent on administration, RD, mapping, etc., rather than getting the mines out of the ground, a statement which is certainly true. What he doesn't seem to realize, though, is that the amount of funding that is being devoted to getting mines out of the ground, although a smaller percentage of the overall funding, is much greater than it was prior to the campaign. Some of the non-demining work that is being funded is undoubtedly wasteful, but much of the RD and mapping work, for example, has already been put to good use. It is my hope that, in future versions, the author will present recent developments in the same neutral and interesting fashion that he presented the more distant historical developments.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good, Informative Reference Book By Bomb Man58 Mike Croll released his book 'The History of Landmines' ten years ago; this book was released around the time of the signing of the Anti-Personnel Landmine Ban Treaty in Ottawa, Canada by a number of nations, which has since grown to over 150 signatories. Ten years on, the work of the humanitarian demining community still continues in many mine affected countries around the world. In this book, Mike has revised his earlier work and examined the origin of the landmine from its beginnings as sharpened steel spikes, through gunpowder-filled holes in the ground, to the both simplistic and sophisticated weapons of today. Although conceived as a defensive weapon of warfare, landmines were developed into both anti-personnel and anti-vehicular devices, especially during the Second World War. Many of the types developed during WW2 were copied and developed further to produce very capable mines that were easy to produce and quick to lay, especially by conscripts with minimal training. Enter the use of the landmine by guerilla groups and non-state armed actors, who have used these weapons in numerous conflicts world-wide. The prolific use of landmines by these groups and in many other intra-state conflicts has seen a deadly and persistent legacy of war that continues to kill and maim hundreds of innocent victims every year. Mike Croll traces the development of landmines through the Korean War and later conflicts and examines their employment in many of the conflicts that have been ongoing for decades. He also looks at the rise of world concern over the devastating effects of landmines on communities and the rise of the anti-personnel landmine ban movement around the world. Also discussed are the work of those people engaged in humanitarian landmine clearance, or 'demining'. This work continues today and involves many agencies of the United Nations, International NGOs and other concerned groups who work to eradicate contaminated land of this deadly man-made legacy. The book is well researched and contains a rich source of reference material; supported by the author's first-hand experience working in various mine-contaminated areas of the world. The book takes a pragmatic look at how mines were developed for warfare, their subsequent use by various groups who do not use them in accordance with the rules of warfare and the consequences to populations as a result of this indiscriminate use. As a result, a growing humanitarian industry has developed over the last twenty-one years in clearing the world's contaminated areas of landmines. In summary, a well researched and written book on the history, development and legacy of landmines, well referenced and a great read as well. Well done. Mike Croll!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Landmines from the Roman Empire to modern-day terrorism By Henry Berry Though a part of the weaponry of warfare since Roman times, land mines have never gotten the attention other weaponry has. Among the reasons for this, Croll notes, is that land mines are for defense; and defense even among the many with interests in military history does not have the strategic factor, risks, or drama of offense in warfare. Croll calls land mines "agricultural rather than martial" for their "concealment in the earth." And despite their long history, no land mines have been given names like Sherman (a tank), Spitfire (a plane), or Kalashnikov (a rifle) which helps to identify them. Instead land mines are given technical names like OZM 72 and M14 which sound like serial numbers. Though the IED's used against American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan are bringing more notice to mines in warfare, Julius Caesar's defenses against an army of Gauls attempting to relieve his siege of another Gallic army in Alesia in 52BC is one of the first known examples of land mines being used in warfare. In this engagement, the mines were rows of stakes with sharp points in a rampart, sharply pointed logs buried in concealed trenches, and pieces of wood with iron hooks in them--a mine known as a goad--strewn over the ground that would have to be covered by the attacking Gauls. Though heavily outnumbered, with such defenses Caesar was able to turn back the attacking Gauls while at the same time keep the other Gallic army from breaking out of Alesia. Similar mines of sharpened branches and logs and metal were used in many other battles of the ancient world. One such simple mine was lengths of metal with sharpened points twined together so that one point was always facing up known as a caltrop. This was effective disabling horses, camels, and elephants in an attack. Caltrops could also allow a retreating army to keep from being decimated by pursuing forces. The invention of gunpowder greatly increased the deadliness and the variety of mines. Having been invented independently in China and Europe, by the fourteenth century it was being used in primitive mines in both places. As explosives evolved to later include TNT, modern-era plastic explosives, and others, mines concomitantly evolved in ingenuity and destructiveness. Mines played important, though often overlooked roles in all major wars in the past two or three centuries; notably the Crimean War, the Civil War, and the Vietnam War. Croll deals with land mines' design,

use, and effectiveness in each stage of their development. In the last part of the book, Croll discusses "humanitarian mine action" to remove mines remaining from past conflicts in countries around the world as called for in U.N. resolutions. Croll is a former British Army Bomb Disposal Officer who has led demining and bomb disposal operations. His knowledge and curiosity of all aspects of mines make for a study which is informative and engaging.

Land mines and their antecedents have been used on the battlefield from ancient times, through the world wars, to the modern conflicts in the developing world. Their use in the developing world caused tens of thousands of civilian casualties, and the resulting international outrage transformed rapidly into a highly effective global movement to ban land mines and a multi million dollar mine action business. This book describes how technology and military tactics defined land mine development and deployment, why they are such an effective weapon of war, and how an unlikely alliance of soldiers, peace activists, development workers and celebrities succeeded in banning the use of antipersonnel mines. Comparisons are made between the post WW2 clearance of around 100 million land mines in Europe and contemporary efforts to clear a similar number in the developing world. By 1947 Europe was largely mine free, yet after nearly 20 years and expenditure of \$4 billion the land mine crisis in the developing world continues. The elusive search for the easy way to clear mines is described. Despite experiments with machines, airships, rats and explosive clearance methods, mine clearance remains a hazardous, labor-intensive task undertaken by teams of deminers using metal detectors and needle-like probes.

"...informative and engaging." (The Midwest Book) About the Author Mike Croll is an author and historian.