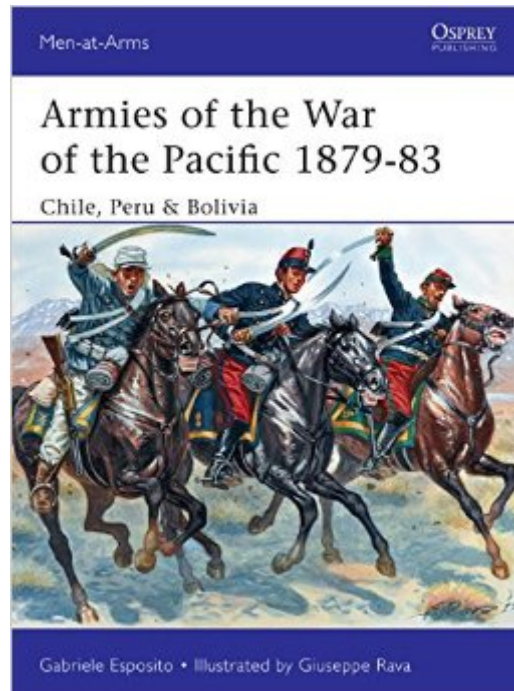


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# Armies Of The War Of The Pacific 1879-83: Chile, Peru & Bolivia (Men-at-Arms)



## Synopsis

The Pacific War was the climax of the decades-long Wars of Liberation, and is one of the most important conflicts in South American history. After winning their independence from Spain in 1825, Peru and Bolivia became separate nations - but over the following years repeated attempts to re-unite them were frustrated by the neighboring powers, particularly Chile. By the 1870s Chilean military superiority and expansionist policies exploded into full scale conflict. This book examines the troops, uniforms and equipment used by forces on all three sides of the conflict and traces the events of the war from the early naval blockades to the full-scale amphibious landings undertaken by the Chilean forces. The war ended in total victory for Chile, and that country's emergence thereafter as 'the Prussia of South America', while it cost Peru a lucrative province, and Bolivia its outlet to the Pacific coast.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

During 1879-1883, Chile fought a war with Peru and Bolivia for possession of the coastal strip along the Pacific Ocean that divided them. It is a conflict that barely registers in the U.S. historical consciousness, but the fighting featured difficult battlefields and some extraordinary examples of expeditionary warfare. Its end result rewrote the boundaries between the three countries. It all started over nitrates on Bolivia's stark coastal plain. The war pitted Chile's small but highly professional army and navy against Peru and Bolivia's larger but less well trained and equipped forces. It ended with the occupation of Peru's capital of Lima and the crushing of an insurgency in

the rugged Andes. In between, author Gabriele Esposito provides a terse narrative of the fighting, and illustrator Giuseppe Rava offers some excellent color plates of the wide variety of uniforms in use during the conflict. The text is nicely supplemented with period photographs, a few maps, and sketches of more uniforms. This is an interesting account of a conflict almost unheard of in North America, but with lasting consequences. Recommended.

The War of the Pacific ranks right up there with the War of the Triple Alliance and the Chaco War as far as its significance in South American history. This war pitted Chile (small, but with professional forces) against an alliance consisting of Peru and Bolivia, larger in territory and population but with less stable governments. By the time the war was over the borders of each of the participants had changed. The narrative explains the progress of the Pacific War and the major battles fought. The artwork gives the reader an idea of the uniforms worn by the belligerents, illustrating the Prussian, French and even U.S. influence on the forces. The artwork, photographs and maps are excellent for the most part. However, it seemed to me that since the naval forces were so important at the beginning of the war.

Like all the other Osprey books, the format doesn't allow you to go into great detail. This book provides a short overview of the military situation and the campaigns by the opponents. The focus is on the organization, equipment and uniforms of the various opponents. Don't expect much analysis of the campaign.

Excellent book covering the most important and dramatic military conflict of the Andean region. It offers a very clear and objective review of the real causes of the war and the military operations. Good pictures, most of them from Chilean archives.

An extraordinary account in a few pages of the War between Chile and the Peru - Bolivia confederation. The book is excellent to get a first view of the entire confrontation. Regrettably it is not available in Spanish. It would be an excellent book for secondary students and everyone interested in having a general perspective. I would give this book 6 stars....

Great book about a very obscure (outside of South America) war. Very well researched with loads of pictures and illustrations.

One of the better books that Osprey had put out in this series on uniforms. I hope they keep up the good work on these subjects

I'm a Chilean interested in our history, and this book can be helpful in my studies.

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