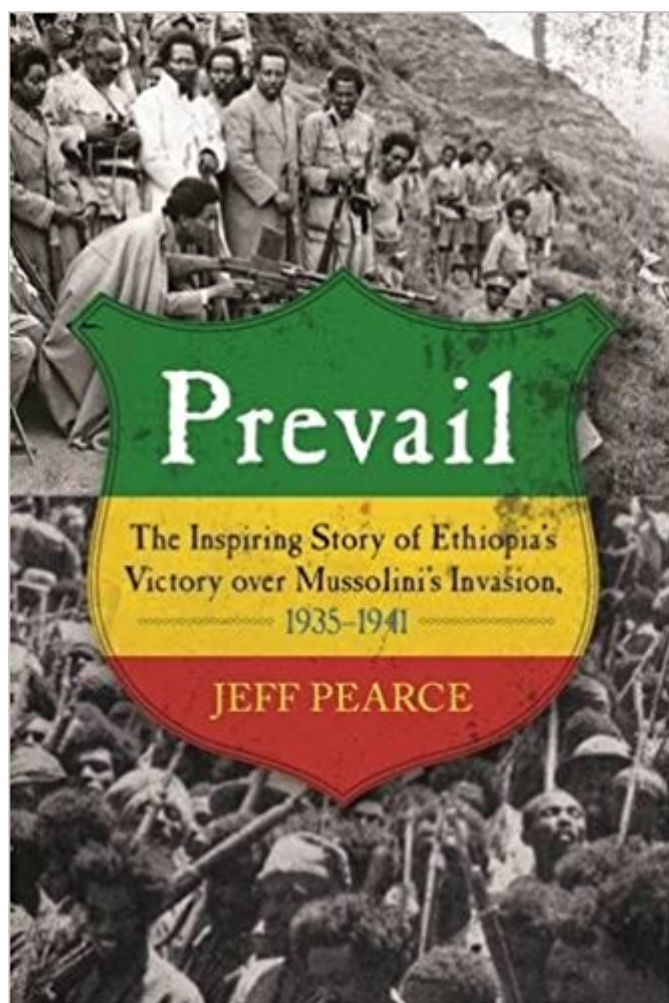


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# Prevail: The Inspiring Story Of Ethiopia's Victory Over Mussolini's Invasion, 1935-1941



## Synopsis

It was the war that changed everything, and yet it's been mostly forgotten: in 1935, Italy invaded Ethiopia. It dominated newspaper headlines and newsreels. It inspired mass marches in Harlem, a play on Broadway, and independence movements in Africa. As the British Navy sailed into the Mediterranean for a white-knuckle showdown with Italian ships, riots broke out in major cities all over the United States. Italian planes dropped poison gas on Ethiopian troops, bombed Red Cross hospitals, and committed atrocities that were never deemed worthy of a war crimes tribunal. But unlike the many other depressing tales of Africa that crowd book shelves, this is a gripping thriller, a rousing tale of real-life heroism in which the Ethiopians come back from near destruction and win. Tunnelling through archive records, tracking down survivors still alive today, and uncovering never-before-seen photos, Jeff Pearce recreates a remarkable era and reveals astonishing new findings. He shows how the British Foreign Office abandoned the Ethiopians to their fate, while Franklin Roosevelt had an ambitious peace plan that could have changed the course of world history; had Chamberlain not blocked him with his policy on Ethiopia. And Pearce shows how modern propaganda techniques, the post-war African world, and modern peace movements all were influenced by this crucial conflict; a war in Africa that truly changed the world. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Arcade imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in history--books about World War II, the Third Reich, Hitler and his henchmen, the JFK assassination, conspiracies, the American Civil War, the American Revolution, gladiators, Vikings, ancient Rome, medieval times, the old West, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

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## Customer Reviews

Pearce's *Prevail* is spellbinding reading. A historical account that is both well-researched and fluid in its writing. Pearce has done justice to this moment in Ethiopian history. A worthy and necessary addition to the growing literature about this period. Maaza Mengiste, author of *Beneath the Lion's Gaze* "Jeff Pearce has written, with validated accuracy, a great study on the Italo-Ethiopian War and its impact. In *Prevail* he has presented an enthusiastically readable work. The reader will meet the exceedingly brave Ethiopian people and their leader, Haile Selassie as they, abandoned by the world, resist invasion by the most powerful military force at the time. Presented in *Prevail* is a piece of history too long ignored if not forgotten." --Thomas E. Simmons, award-winning author of *The Man Called Brown Condor*

Jeff Pearce has traveled far to get his unique stories. For his landmark history, *Prevail*, he tracked down survivors from the Italian-Ethiopian War of the 1930s and 40s, and he uncovered shocking records about Britain's role during the conflict in London archives. For the book he's currently working on, he went all the way to Iraq to interview Kurdish defence forces -- less than two kilometres away from a town controlled by ISIS. And in 2005, he briefly taught journalism in Burma. His book of investigative journalism, *Gangs in Canada*, has been adopted as a textbook for criminology, and his history of sex in Canada, *How to Make Love in a Canoe*, has been adapted into a hilarious stage adaptation by the University of Toronto's Theatre Erindale. In 2007, he wrote his stage play, *Defenders of Gravity*, which was chosen by a professional panel to inaugurate the Playwrights of Spring Festival in Toronto. Harper Voyager reissued his popular SF thriller, *The Karma Booth*, and his other science fiction and fantasy works have earned critical praise from indie reviewers as well as a loyal following. Richard Pankhurst has a doctorate in economic history from the London School of Economics. In 1962, he was the founding director of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies at the University College of Addis Ababa, and, in 2004, he was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire for services to Ethiopian studies. He lives in Addis Ababa.

Mr. Pearce at long last provides an overdue narrative about Mussolini's expansionism in the Horn of Africa. The reader will thoroughly enjoy meeting Pearce's host of colorful characters. Few today

truly appreciate the atrocity that was Mussolini's use of mustard gas, a wholly criminal act used to force battle. Pearce's story exposes the world powers' intentional blindness to what happened in Ethiopia, and illustrates how the tendency to look the other way permeated through the ages. Happily, this is also a great underdog story, and Pearce manages to portray how the Ethiopians prevailed against all odds. Mussolini apologists will surely come out of the woodwork to diminish this well-told story. Pearce's book belongs on the shelf of every WWII enthusiasts, as it provides the missing prologue to the war that would unravel the whole world.

Very good book if you love Ethiopia. The noble Ethiopian resistance kept the Italians on the main roads. The Italian Army dared not go into the rural areas for fear of being ambushed. This is a very good book to make applications to other nations where tyrant militaries are threatening to invade their own nation. This book also shows the zeal of Emperor Heile Salassia and the way Europe and America threw Ethiopia under the bus.

Great history about a little known area of the world. It really opened my eyes to how complex the history and people of Ethiopia are.

Extremely well documented and easily readable a very unknown story of the inter-war period. I was impressed by his knowledge and his ability to make this somewhat dry period come to life.

It's a fascinating story of events in history that I knew very little about. Hardly surprising - the way in which the whole business of the brutal Italian invasion and occupation of Ethiopia was swept under the carpet by the Allies means that very few people have heard about it in any detail. Pearce has done an excellent job in piecing together a coherent account of these times from what must have been extremely fragmentary sources, and putting it into a readable form. This is not a book that will have universal appeal, given the somewhat specialist subject, but for those interested in the byways of history, it is a highly interesting account of a neglected topic.

Regardless of the cruelty of Mussolini's army, Ethiopians won the war. What a wonderful people they are. Even after the war, many Italians stayed in Ethiopia and married Ethiopians. Many are there today, and raise their children about this wonderful culture and people.

Excellent service. I can recommend vendor to my friends.

Very good regarding the collection of the historical facts. Balanced analysis.

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