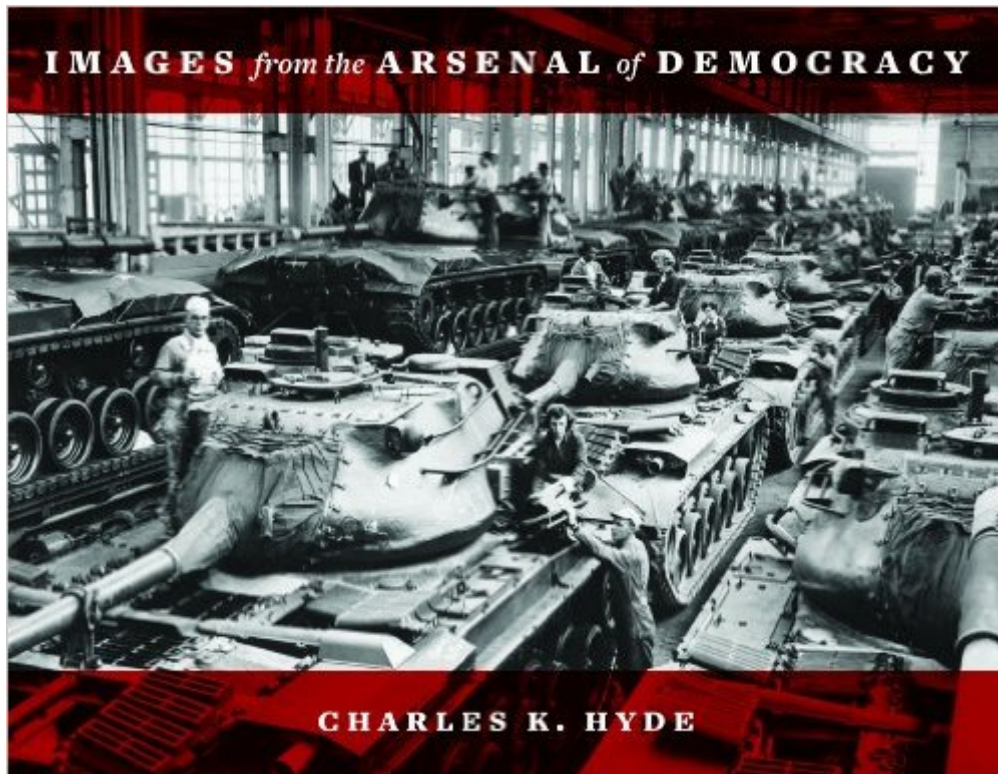


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# Images From The Arsenal Of Democracy (Painted Turtle)



## Synopsis

While researching his previous study, *Arsenal of Democracy: The American Automobile Industry in World War II* (Wayne State University Press, 2013), award-winning automotive historian Charles K. Hyde discovered the many remarkable photos that were part of the era's historical documentation. In *Images from the Arsenal of Democracy*, Hyde presents a selection of nearly three hundred of these documentary photos in striking black and white, with brief captions. Taken together, the images create a captivating portrait of this crucial moment in American business, military, and cultural history. *Images from the Arsenal of Democracy* spans from 1940 until the end of the war, presenting up-close, rarely seen views of newly built plants and repurposed production lines, a staggering variety of war products and components, and the many workers behind Detroit's wartime production miracles. The human faces that Hyde presents are especially compelling, as photos show the critical role played by previously underused workers—namely women and African Americans. *Images from the Arsenal of Democracy* is divided into chapters by theme, including "Preparing for War before Pearl Harbor"; "Planning Defense Production after Pearl Harbor"; "Aircraft Engines and Propellers"; "Aircraft Components and Complete Aircraft"; "Tanks and Other Armored Vehicles"; "Jeeps, Trucks, and Amphibious Vehicles"; "Guns, Shells, Bullets, and Other War Goods"; "The New Workers"; and "Celebrating the Production Achievements." The first comprehensive and detailed history drawn solely from the surviving photographic record of wartime Detroit, *Images from the Arsenal of Democracy* will be appreciated by automotive historians, World War II scholars, and American history buffs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book with some trepidation. There were no reviews yet posted, and the cover photo showed an assembly line of M-47 Patton tanks, which were not built until after the Korean War. However I did buy it and found it to be a very informative picture heavy book. The photos are clear and have concise captions. Maybe a bit too concise, but maybe this book is meant to be a companion to his other book "Arsenal of Democracy." There are a lot of interesting photos of the people and machinery that did make this country the Arsenal of Democracy. The book is worth the investment. Oh, and regarding the Patton tank photo? The dust jacket says they are M-26 Pershing tanks, and the photo is reproduced on page 138, again calling them Pershing tanks (the turret is a give-away). But I didn't find any other mistakes jump out at me, and I found it to be an otherwise enjoyable book. I look forward to getting his other books as well.

Mr Hyde did a remarkable job putting this book together. The images are very clear, the text very appropriate and the two errors I spotted may be mute as the photo and caption still convey the information. One of the things that stands out is the fact that the Detroit area was not famous just for the B-24 production at Willow Run but also being B-17 and B-29 components were also manufactured here. I had no idea of that fact! If you like history books that don't bog down with endless text and enjoy seeing photos of the subject written about, this book is for you. 5 stars is justly deserved!

Hyde's book is primarily images. They come from a collection at the Detroit Public Library, one that originated with a manufacturer group during the war, the Automotive Council for War Production. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of captions--another review caught an error, so perhaps others remain. It's an absorbing book, and a rather fast read since the accompanying text is usually short and to the point, something so many books do not feature. The organization by chapters is before Pearl Harbor; After Pearl Harbor; Aircraft Engines and Propellers; Aircraft Components and Complete Aircraft; Tanks and Armored Vehicles; Jeeps and Amphibian Vehicles; Guns, Shells, Bullets; The New Workers; and a short last one on celebrating awards, that is things like achieving production goal awards. The section on new workers I found to be the most interesting, with many interesting shots of women at work, in an industrial setting, and a few--these seem to be fairly rare--of African Americans. The photos may interest feminist historians, historians interested in

finding examples of factories at war, and of course any historical approach to social history will find the hats, clothes, hair and other matters to be in themselves historical documentary images.

Great book for those who want to read about Detroit back in the 1940's and WWII. Wonderful pictures of people and places where military materials were made. Factual and perfect for WWII buffs and those who love Detroit history. Somewhat academic but easy to read

Drawing on photographs from some of the leading archives for Images from the Arsenal of Democracy, Charles K. Hyde has created the perfect companion book for his written study on the same topic. The photographs are clearly captioned and well re-produced.

Excellent-quality images that conveyed the capability of the US and the dedication of its citizens to be the arsenal of democracy. The captions provided interesting information about the photos, and were easy to read. The stark information about segregation and racism was difficult to read, but it was helpful to understand the times.

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