



Petain: Verdun to Vichy

By Robert B. Bruce

Potomac Books Inc. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Petain: Verdun to Vichy, Robert B. Bruce, Few figures in modern French history have aroused more controversy than Marshal Henri-Philippe Petain, who rose from obscurity to great fame in the First World War only to fall into infamy during the dark days of Nazi occupation in World War II. Petain's brilliant theories of firepower and flexible defense, as well as his deep empathy for the soldiers of France and the horrific trials they endured on a daily basis, mark him as one of the greatest Allied generals of World War I. Yet today he is best remembered as the nearly senile marshal who was handed the reins of power in France in the midst of the disastrous 1940 campaign and tasked with seeking terms from Nazi Germany. His leadership of Vichy France from 1940 to 1944 and his postwar conviction of treason and lifetime exile to the Isle de Yeu made him a scapegoat for the nation. This later perception forever tainted Petain's military reputation as a soldier who served France his entire life and led the French Army through the crucible of Verdun, the morale crisis of 1917, and on...

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