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Ayala, César. **Battleship Vieques: Puerto Rico from World War II to the Korean War**, by César J. Ayala and José L. Bolívar. Markus Wiener, 2011. 220p bibl index afp ISBN 9781558765375, \$64.95; ISBN 9781558765382 pbk, \$24.95

Ayala (UCLA) is one of the rising stars in Puerto Rican studies, and *Battleship Vieques* is an excellent and important addition to his growing body of work (much of it, like this book, coauthored with others in evidently quite productive collaborations). Using documentary and interview sources, the authors masterfully weave together the political, economic, military, and personal historical dimensions that have entwined the US and Puerto Rico in the small island of Vieques through the naval base established there at the beginning of WW II, only recently closed down after protracted protests in all three locales. The impressive detail may be a bit overwhelming for readers not comfortable with economic history and/or island history, but the writing is clearer and much more enjoyable than much work in the genre, and the story and narrative are compelling. The book nicely complements recent studies of the protests (e.g., Katherine T. McCaffrey's *Military Power and Popular Protest*, CH, Jan'03, 40-2968a, and Mario Murillo's *Islands of Resistance*, 2001). An important addition in military/naval history and US military policy as well as Caribbean and Puerto Rican studies. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All levels/libraries. -- *F. W. Gleach, Cornell University*