

# CHOICE *connect*

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## University Press of Mississippi

*The following review appeared in the December 2015 issue of CHOICE:*

### Latin America & the Caribbean

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**Island at war: Puerto Rico in the crucible of the Second World War**, ed. by Jorge Rodríguez Beruff and Jose L. Bolívar Fresneda. University Press of Mississippi, 2015. 272p index afp ISBN 9781628461640, \$65.00.

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The editors have provided an outstanding history of the effects of WW II in Puerto Rico and of the role of Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans in the war—a period that until recently has received relatively little scholarly attention. Each contribution is clearly written and makes its specific contribution, and the editors and authors did a remarkable job ensuring that the chapters complement one another as well as if this were a single-author monograph. Military strategy, political relationships both on the island and between Puerto Rico and the US, economics and infrastructure development, life on the island and how the war and the German blockade affected it, even an individual Puerto Rican soldier's experience—all these aspects come together to produce a cohesive vision. Each chapter can stand on its own, but this truly is an example of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts. Of interest to historians of the war and of the island, as well as to Puerto Rican people who want to know more about this relatively recent period. A truly outstanding book.

—*F. W. Gleach, Cornell University*

Summing Up: Essential. All levels/libraries.