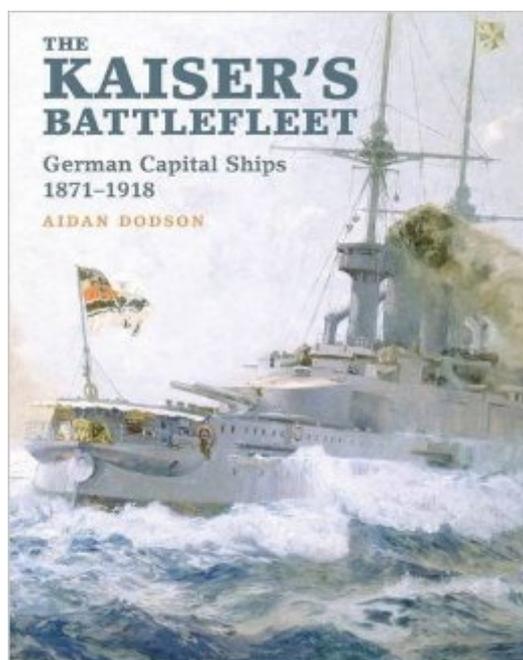


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# The Kaiser's Battlefleet: German Capital Ships 1871-1918



## Synopsis

The battleships of the Third Reich have been written about exhaustively, but there is little in English devoted to their Second Reich predecessors. This new book fills an important gap in the literature of the period by covering these German capital ships in detail and studying the full span of battleship development during this period. The book is arranged as a chronological narrative, with technical details, construction schedules, and ultimate fates tabulated throughout, thus avoiding the sometimes disjointed structure that can result from a class-by-class approach. Heavily illustrated with line drawings and photographs, many from German sources, the book offers readers a fresh visual look at these ships. A key objective of the book is to make available a full synthesis of the published fruits of archival research by German writers found in the pre-World War II books of Koop & Schmolke, Groer's papers on the construction program of the dreadnaught era, Forstmeier & Breyer on World War I projects, and Schenk & Nottelmann's papers in Warship International. As well as providing data not available in English-language books, these sources correct significant errors in standard English sources.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Seaforth Publishing has done it yet again. They have produced a lovely book filled with great photographs as well as some excellent information. The last 1/3rd of the book is devoted to ship plans and stats. The much-published Aidan Dodson of the University of Bristol writes it. Dodson is best known for his work and his career in ancient Egyptian studies. Writing this book on the German battleships and large cruisers from 1871 to 1918 reminded me of the late professor Andrea Curami

who worked in Italian military history, but his professional back ground was in bridge engineering. They were and are a credit to both. The study does work in German secondary source material but is wedded in mostly in English language studies and the professor has clearly examined many sources. He does get the German desire for a high rate of fire for their warships (p45). He notes in the role of the weather patterns (p75) in the North Sea and Baltic which more often than not dictated short-range battle conditions. One of the real strengths of this volume is you can pretty much know what squadrons ships belonged to at just about any point covered in this book, what their reconstructions turned them into, and often accompanied with a photograph showing the changes. So one will know the Deutschland (1875) seems to be an ill-fated warship. One tidbit is that before World War One the Moltke was almost dispatched to von Spee in the Far East. Additionally there is much on German built warships bought by other nations. So what does the book not cover? 1) range of guns is neither complete nor perfectly accurate. Many German guns had their ranges extended in 1915 that Dodson misses (see Scheer's book & p128 here).

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