

To Hear Only Thunder Again



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The paucity of scholarly literature on World War II veteran readjustment might lead one to believe these nearly sixteen million men and women simply took off their uniforms after the War and reintegrated into society with ease. Mark D. Van Ells path-breaking work is the first serious analysis of the immense effort that was required to avoid the potential social decay so often associated with veteran reintegration. *To Hear Only Thunder Again* explores the topical issues of educational, health, employment, housing, medical, and personal readjustment faced by veterans while continuously situating these issues against the backdrop of society's political response. Never before, or since, had Americans taken such a keen interest in veterans' affairs. While post-World War II America was spared the problem of veteran unemployment and while veterans were not associated with crime and political disorder-as had often been the case after World War I-the package of readjustment benefits devised that allowed for such a smooth transition was extremely expensive. Veterans of later wars never received as much assistance and consequently experienced more difficulty returning to civilian life. Van Ells' work ensures that these lessons of the Second World War are not entirely lost. *To Hear Only Thunder Again* provides an unprecedented exploration of a period largely neglected by military historians.

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