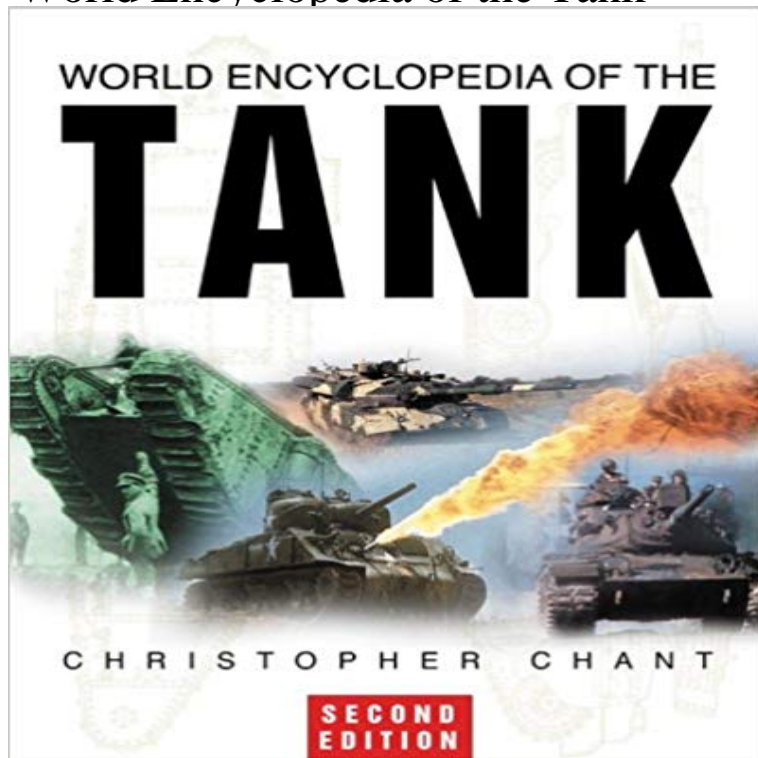


World Encyclopedia of the Tank



One of the most potent and fascinating weapons of the twentieth century, the tank has evolved over ninety years of development. Increasingly sophisticated technology has enhanced the tanks domination of all operational conditions, by virtue of its unparalleled combination of offensive and defensive attributes. Firepower, protection and mobility have all been improved continuously in the ceaseless struggle for battlefield supremacy. The tank has a position of unrivalled importance in twentieth-century military history. Developed originally by the British to break the deadlock of trench warfare during the First World War, the tank proved to be a devastating breakthrough weapon, achieving unprecedented results in the Battle of Cambrai in 1917. The tanks true potential, however, was only fully appreciated by the Germans, who set in train a highly secret tank development program between the World Wars. This initiative culminated in the revolutionary concept of Blitzkrieg, a strategy based on the use of armour to punch holes in the enemys defenses, and was to result in the Nazi domination of continental Europe. The tank continues to be at the heart of modern strategic thinking, having proved its worth in the 1991 Gulf War. A combination of color photographs, specially-drawn artwork and technical specifications make this a definitive reference for anyone interested in the development of the tank.

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