Strategic Errors: U.S. Strategic Bombing, Theory and Practice, 1910-1980

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STRATEGIC ERRORS:
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING, THEORY AND PRACTICE, 1910-1980

A Thesis
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Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts

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Indiana University of Pennsylvania
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Indiana University of Pennsylvania
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Allied strategic bombing targets were selected to destroy the German war-making ability. However, the limitations of strategic bombing seriously crippled the success of the overall campaign. Strategic bombing in World War II suffered from a number of problems: the accuracy was inadequate, the number of sorties needed to destroy the enemy’s war-making ability was high, the number of men lost was high, and the necessity for the cooperation of all branches of the military made many sorties ineffective. Military leaders drew important lessons from the strategic bombing campaign, including the need for cooperation and the need for advanced technology. Chapter 1 begins by discussing the theory behind the strategy, as it was developed before World War II. Chapter 2 examines the effectiveness of strategic bombing during the war. Chapter 3 concludes by discussing the lessons that were learned during World War II and applied to the next wars.