

8-2015

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

Courtney Vojtko

*Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://knowledge.library.iup.edu/etd>

---

## Recommended Citation

Vojtko, Courtney, "Strategic Errors: U.S. Strategic Bombing, Theory and Practice, 1910-1980" (2015). *Theses and Dissertations (All)*. 1300.

<http://knowledge.library.iup.edu/etd/1300>

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by Knowledge Repository @ IUP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Theses and Dissertations (All) by an authorized administrator of Knowledge Repository @ IUP. For more information, please contact [cclouser@iup.edu](mailto:cclouser@iup.edu), [sara.parme@iup.edu](mailto:sara.parme@iup.edu).

STUDENT HAS RESTRICTED ACCESS TO FULL TEXT OF THE THESIS.  
ONLY COVER PAGES AND ABSTRACT ARE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME

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

A Thesis

Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies and Research

in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

Courtney Vojtko

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

August 2015

Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
School of Graduate Studies and Research  
Department of History

We hereby approve the thesis of

Courtney Vojtko

Candidate for the degree of Master of Arts

---

Jeanine Mazak Kahne, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of History, Advisor

---

Joseph Mannard, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of History

---

Steven Schroeder, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of History

ACCEPTED

---

Randy L. Martin, Ph.D.  
Dean  
School of Graduate Studies and Research

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

Author: Courtney Vojtko

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Jeanine Mazak-Kahne

Thesis Committee Members:           Dr. Joseph Mannard  
  Dr. Steven Schroeder

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.