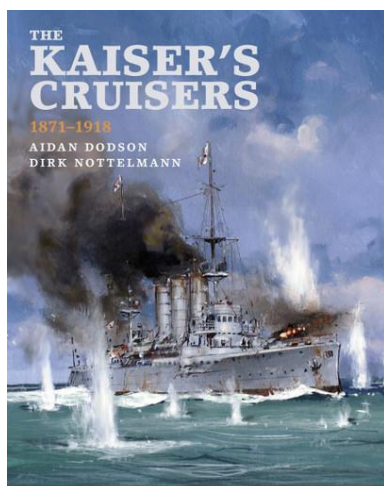


**BOOK REVIEW**  
**THE KAISER'S CRUISERS**  
**1871-1918**  
**Aidan Dodson & Dirk Nottelman**  
**Seaforth 2021 (hb)**  
**ISBN: 978-1-5267-6576-5**



This 'heavyweight' volume is an exemplary work of research and production, well-illustrated with, many rare and line drawings. Whilst historically much has been written about German capital ships of the Third Reich this work fills a clear gap in the study of cruisers of the Second Reich. The work ranges from wooden hulled corvettes to modern small cruisers that fought in the First World War and makes an excellent companion to the author's accompanying volume 'The Kaisers Battlefleet'.

With a chronological narrative covering the period 1871 – 1918 the ships described include corvettes, sloops, aviso's (despatch boats), torpedo cruisers, small, III and IV class cruisers with detailed descriptions on design, construction and operational histories including the fate of the ship at the end of its service (for WW1 enthusiasts cf: Scapa Flow?). Weaponry and armour are also included with all technical details tabulated in the second half of the volume. The authors have made all-embracing use of archival material, particularly relating to the political and technical background to design and procurement. This an exceptionally well researched and produced volume and is a must for those with an interest in the German navy. Highly Recommended as the start point for research in this area.

***Martin Willoughby***