Less than a month after the Pearl Harbor attack of World War II, Duke University in North Carolina hosted the Rose Bowl after the United States military had determined the risk of Japanese bombing was too great for the annual event to be held in its hometown, Pasadena, California. This and many other stories of how North Carolina and its citizens made contributions, both great and small, during the World Wars and the interwar years fills the pages of *North Carolina and the Two World Wars*. This new release from the North Carolina Office of Archives and History revises and combines two previously released works by Sarah McCulloh Lemmon of Meredith College, *North Carolina’s Role in World War I* (1966) and *North Carolina’s Role in World War II* (1964), with a new section on the inter-war period by Nancy Smith Midgette of Elon University.

Professors Lemmon and Midgette recount how North Carolina provided the nation with government and military leaders, including Walter Page who was an ambassador in London and Josephus Daniels who was one of the Secretaries of the Navy in World War I. The state also supplied natural resources and industrial goods, including 243 naval ships built in World War II. They provide accounts of military organizations with many North Carolinian members, including the Army’s “Old Hickory” and “Wildcats” divisions in World War I, and Camp Montford Point in Onslow County, where about 20,000 African-American Marines trained in during World War II.

Beyond political and military leaders, those serving in combat roles, and raw production facts, Lemmon and Midgette feature the numerous notable contributions of women, students, and community and church groups to the war efforts. Besides the great support for the wars clearly presented, the authors also write about those who opposed the wars and about solely domestic issues, including school and mental health care reforms in the state.

The authors combine headlines and quotations from news stories and editorials from the state’s various newspapers with excerpts from letters and diaries written by troops and others abroad and on the home front to give personal voices to the history of North Carolina’s involvement in the wars and the tumultuous interwar years, which were dominated by the Great Depression and the New Deal. The numerous photographs, political cartoons, tables, and other illustrations included throughout the text further enhance this already highly readable narrative history. The detailed index and illustration list help readers quickly locate relevant material.

Lemmon and Midgette clearly impart the impressive extent of government coordination and public support for the war efforts. In this succinct book, they have well documented North Carolina’s roles on the battlefield, in government, and throughout the state’s rural and urban areas, school and college campuses, and households. *North Carolina and the Two World Wars* is engrossing and highly informative for casual readers of history, yet it will also certainly be a boon to academic researchers for years to come. High school, public, and academic libraries are encouraged to add this title to their collections.

C. William Gee  
East Carolina University