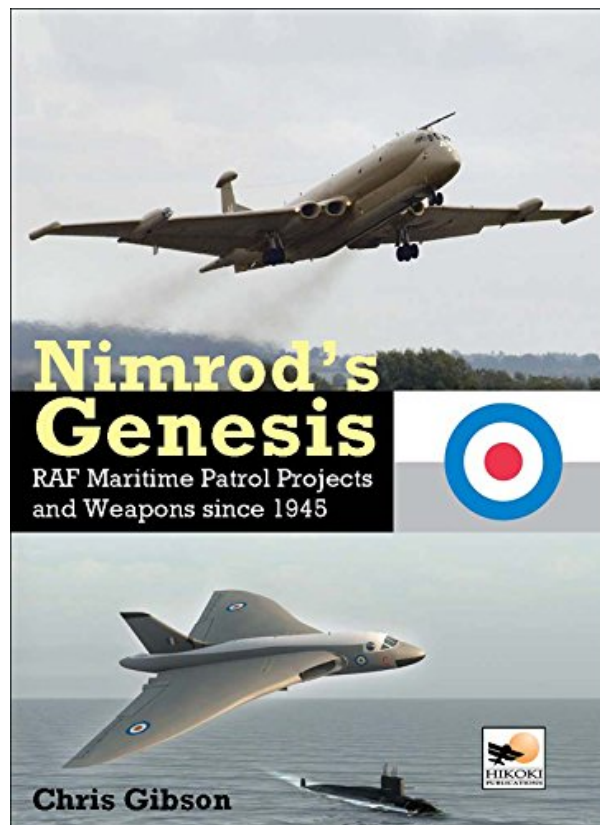
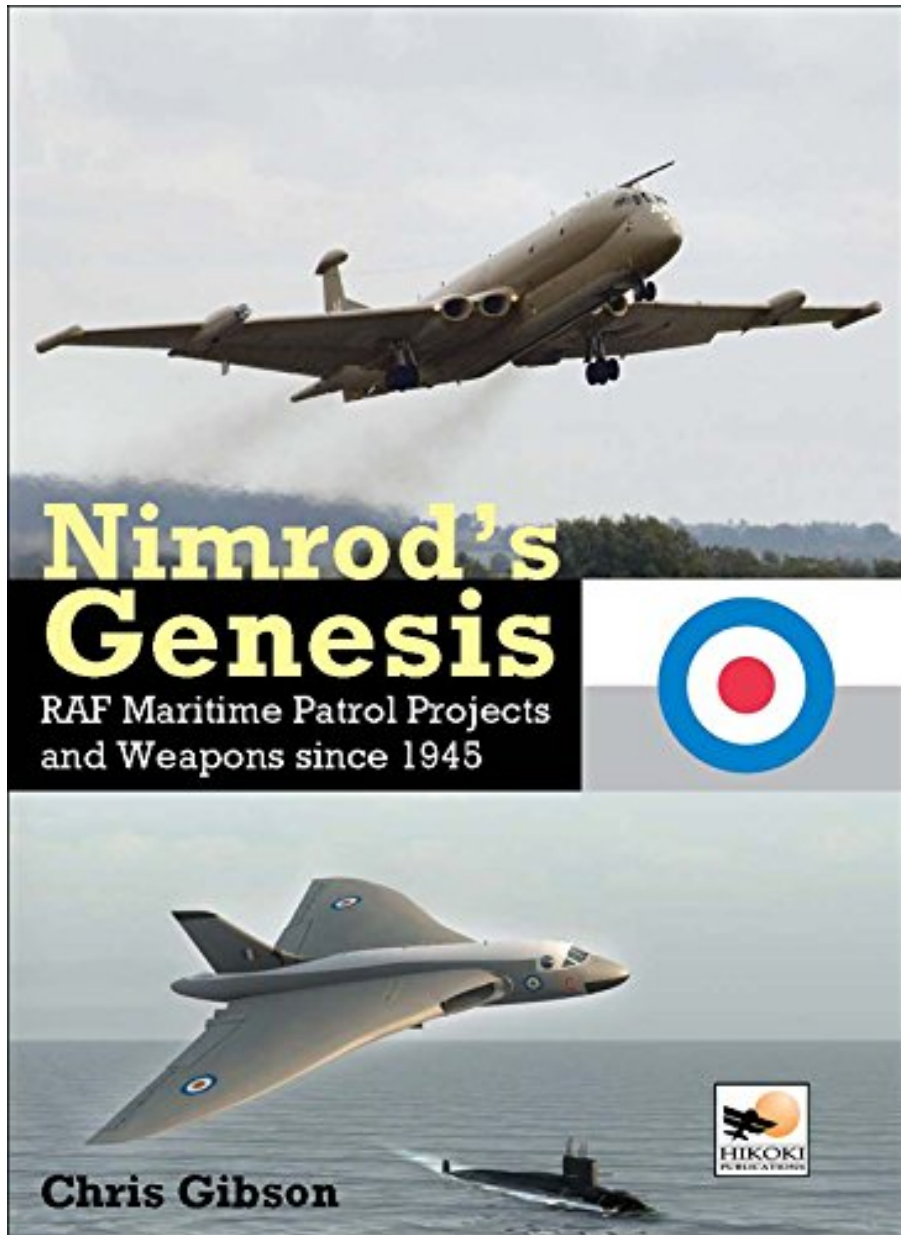


NIMROD'S GENESIS: RAF MARITIME PATROL PROJECTS AND WEAPONS SINCE 1945 (HIKOKI) BY CHRIS GIBSON



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Review

"It's not often you get a history of an aircraft chock full of all its competitors, let alone all the political machinations that went into making decisions that would impact a program's capability. Chris Gibson was able to weave in a tremendous amount of data and still manage to provide a compelling story." (Frank Landrus IPMS/USA 2015-06-15)

From the Back Cover

To counter the threat from a Soviet "blue water" navy, a large investment was made in the years from 1945 until the 1960s to develop maritime patrol aircraft. For years the Air Staff and the ministries argued over what type should replace the Shackleton, including variants of the Vulcan, the Britannia, VC10 and Trident, before one man strode into the MoD building in 1964, settling the argument with what became Nimrod.

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Chris Gibson examines the post-war genesis of the RAF's maritime patrol aircraft, a process that led to Nimrod. From the last flying boats, attempts to improve then replace the Shackleton and ultimately the Nimrod itself, Gibson provides a fascinating insight into the aircraft, weapons and sensors developed to counter the Soviet submarine threat.

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Great background to England's way of coming up with both ...

By Stephen F Zink

Great background to England's way of coming up with both aircraft and the systems for doing anti-submarine and general maritime patrol work since WWII. And we thought the F-35 program was a bad, long drawn out process. The Brits were way ahead of us!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Another fascinating delve into aviation history with Chris Gibson

By Overscan

Disclaimer: I received a review copy of this book.

Nimrod's Genesis is the latest volume in Chris Gibson's series of books for Crecy on RAF projects and weapons. Following on from Vulcan's Hammer (Bombers) and Battle Flight (Fighters), Chris has decided to tackle the less glamorous, less well known subject of maritime patrol.

The book is beautifully put together, the drawings, photos and artwork all first class and reproduced perfectly and the excessive typos of Battle Flight are banished. The text is well written and edited, impeccably researched and reads well. There are loads of projects depicted I was previously unaware of, and the coverage of the various designs for the successive requirements is very complete. Chris covers the weapons and sensors used in maritime patrol and a chapter explaining the submarine threat that the Soviet Navy posed. If you have any interest in the subject of maritime patrol aircraft, I am sure this book will be a delight. I liked the HS.1011/HS.1023 (impractical but cool), and the Maritime Patrol Vulcan was unexpected.

In summary then, a great reference on RAF Maritime Patrol requirements and development, well worth buying. Crecy continue to impress with their releases, and Chris Gibson does a very good job of making a coherent narrative from the source material, not just a "stamp collection" of projects.

Sticking the Maritime Patrol Vulcan on the cover was a great idea - pity there were no MPA TSR.2 projects :)

In conclusion - buy it, its very interesting and deserves to do well.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

A Sleeper

By F. Stop Fitzgerald

Nimrod's Genesis: RAF Maritime Patrol Projects and Weapons since 1945

by Chris Gibson

Hikoki Publications

\$49.95

This book is a specimen of an aviation genre upon which the Brits seem to have a stranglehold: aircraft that never were. The books are enticing because their hallmarks—quality printing, excellent photographic reproduction, integrated design, and numerous line drawings—are focused on capturing the reader's and purchaser's attention. They do this very well. That they are printed in China is more a statement of the cost of similar endeavors in the West than it is of the derived quality in the East.

Unlike historical fiction for things that never were, this category of aviation literature has a very valid substrate: the furtherance of the aeronautical art. Aviation blind alleys can actually lead to hardware. Hence aircraft vaporware is worthy of study and reportage.

The issue with such books is how far to push the defining boundaries. Nimrod's Genesis may be just on the edge. Subtitled “RAF Maritime Patrol Projects and Weapons since 1945,” this is 222 pages of unbridled decadence for the minutiae loving aviation buff. Yes, it is an acquired taste, and on the surface may not appeal to yours. It certainly didn't mine. But author Chris Gibson knows how to reel you in.

The opening chapter isn't even about aircraft. It concisely sets the stage for subsequent chapters by painting a picture of the “enemy,” the Soviet/Russian Navy, and in particular its submarines. This he follows with a chapter on sensors, how they work, the tactics required for each, and weapons used to counter targets. All these are very well illustrated. Explanatory graphics are clear, concise, and informative. The subsequent chapters about the aircraft begin with the end of World War II and flying boat projects and continue through short- and medium-range maritime reconnaissance, long-range land planes, NATO and the so-called Trinity three-in-one project, and continue chronologically to today.

Gibson's writing is focused, there are no distracting side trips into unrelated matters. There is a flow to his work that is easy for the reader to follow and one often leaves a chapter with the thought that “I didn't know that,” or “That makes sense.”

My only criticism with this book—and it applies to the entire genre—is that they tease you with such interesting drawings and sketches and leave you wanting because they are too small to be of real value other than to illustrate a shape.

I would not have gambled on the subject. It is too far removed from my comfort zone. But I would have lost by not picking it up.

Nimrod's Genesis is available from Specialty Press at 1-800-895-4585 or www.specialtypress.com.

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