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## The Spanish-American War: Conflict in the Caribbean and the Pacific, 1895-1902,

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to Switzerland, Isaacs among them. Unfortunately, by then the war was nearly at an end, and his intelligence was rendered useless. Consequently, despite the heroic efforts that earned him the Medal of Honor, Isaacs was haunted by a sense of failure.

*Escape* is of value not as a guide to intelligence gathering or escape from POW camps but as an illustration of honor and commitment to duty. Edouard Isaacs's uprightness and steadfastness are a case study in—dare we use the term?—"core values" that often appear to be lacking in today's armed forces. This work should be required reading in all officer accession programs.

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Smith, Joseph. *The Spanish-American War: Conflict in the Caribbean and the Pacific, 1895–1902*. New York: Longman, 1994. 262pp. (No price given)

A new president, preferring to focus on the domestic economy, finds himself drawn reluctantly toward foreign crises. The Caribbean is in turmoil. Cuba's imperial patron is collapsing into bankruptcy, unable to support its far-flung outposts. Because of its proximity and ties to the region, the United States finds itself pulled into the situation. While there are many differences, the problem the United States faces today parallels that of a hundred years ago, the days leading up to the Spanish-American War. The past, in many ways, foreshadows the present.

Joseph Smith's book is a good starting point for those who wish to learn from that conflict. *The Spanish-American War* is the third in a series entitled "Modern Wars In Perspective," the aim of which is to "advance the current integration of military history into the academic mainstream," its books being "not merely traditional campaign narratives, but [meant to] examine the causes, course and consequences of major conflicts, in their full international political, diplomatic, social and ideological contexts." Thus the series intends to fill a serious gap in scholarship. Armed clashes no more represent the entire human effort of warfare than visible portions represent the entire iceberg.

The Spanish-American War is an excellent subject for such a study; it represents a cusp in U.S. history, when, having satiated its drive to tame a continent, the nation turned outward toward the international arena—a focus that still exists today. The war has an inevitable pull for those interested in naval warfare, because, besides the Santiago campaign (itself aimed against the Spanish Navy), its action took place almost entirely on the sea. Also, not only had U.S. naval forces been shaped by the theories of Alfred T. Mahan, but he was available at the time to comment on events that appeared tailor-made to confirm those theories.

Smith largely succeeds in his efforts. While its shape is similar to that of most books describing a war (the roots, preparations, execution, and conclusion of the conflict), his text differs in the length of coverage of each of these subjects. More is devoted to

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diplomacy, economics, politics, and preparations than to the battles themselves. The text starts well before U.S. involvement, with a discussion of the roots of the Cuban revolution. We see that the Spanish played a role similar to that in which the U.S. found itself during the Vietnam War. Military preparations receive a thorough description, with no attempt to gloss over problems, which included a minuscule standing army, prejudice, poor logistics, and disease. The state of U.S. military preparedness may seem almost comical to the modern reader. Smith spends a good deal of time on the domestic situation in Spain and describes that nation's attempts to marshal its forces. However, once the conflict begins, Smith falls into a more familiar mode, giving the U.S. the lion's share of space and the most complete coverage. He offers clear descriptions of the blockade of Cuba, the American expedition to Santiago, and the battle of Manila. Smith takes pains to examine the appalling and nearly total lack of cooperation between U.S. naval and land forces, an object lesson for those who object to "jointness."

Modern American ties with the Philippines are rooted in this conflict, and it is illuminating to see how differently U.S. forces dealt with Cuban revolutionaries, who were treated (albeit reluctantly) as allies, and Filipino guerrillas, who were treated as a threat almost from the start. The book ends with a thorough discussion of the peace negotiations and the politics behind them, as well as an exploration of the peacetime trends set in motion during the conflict.

Studying the Spanish-American War sheds light on our long involvement in the affairs of the Caribbean and points to the uneven distribution of wealth that lies at the root of the region's troubles. Professor Smith has done an excellent job of illuminating the history of the war. It remains to be seen whether we can learn from it.

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Morelock, J.D. *The Army Times Book of Great Land Battles: From the Civil War to the Gulf War*. New York: Berkley, 1994. 331pp. \$29.95

Since peace makes poor reading, *The Army Times Book of Great Land Battles* will be certain to please those who enjoy reading about war without getting dirty. The author has selected fourteen land battles (billed on the dustjacket as "the battles that redefined modern warfare") that he believes "changed the nature of both warfare and politics."

Understandably subjective in approach, Colonel Morelock's book is nonetheless an eager attempt to clarify the importance of battle on land in the shaping of strategy and policy from 1863 to 1991. As an Army officer and historian with two other books to his credit, Morelock has put together a simple, straightforward description of Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Sedan, Port Arthur, Tannenberg, Verdun, Meuse-Argonne, Stalingrad, the Bulge, Okinawa, Korea, Dien Bien Phu, the