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## The Evolution of Modern Land Warfare

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notably Turkey; and underscored the need to harness technology to policy through effective and enduring command and control capabilities.

Therefore, the reader will find in this work a wealth of sociological, historical, and analytical detail. Of special note are, the title essay by J.J. Martin and James Digby; Leon Sloss's valuable chapter on "The Ambiguous Role of Strategic Defense in U.S. Strategy"; William Odom's brief yet encyclopedic review of Soviet military development and doctrine; and the excellent exposition on net assessment by three of its practitioners, George Pickett, James Roche, and Barry Watts. Finally, as Robert Bartley aptly notes in his preface, Fred Ikle's elegant essay on "The Role of Character and Intellect in Strategy," which closes the volume, "sketches a silhouette with recognizable features"—of a voluble fountain of analytical brilliance and intellectual breadth, and of the more reserved but no less worldly and astute analyst who has been his lifelong companion.

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Bellamy, Christopher. *The Evolution of Modern Land Warfare: Theory and Practice*. New York: Rutledge, 1990. 327pp. \$45

The value of military history has long been a subject of debate in the operations departments of the several war colleges and in the military operations

research community. To the outsider or the amateur, this enduring debate seems quite incredible. After all, the works of Alfred Mahan and Julian Corbett are firmly embedded in military history, deriving their lasting value from the illumination which history provides to current issues. To the practitioners of the military arts and science, history is an elusive, seductive, sometimes treacherous muse—often as distorting as illuminating. The modern military planner rapidly discovers that operational planning is a fine art form closely akin to the creative practice of architecture and engineering, while military history seems almost irrelevant. To the military acquisition planner, advanced, rapidly deployed technology appears to distort beyond recognition the patterns of the historical experience. Only upon extended contemplation does the experienced operator or planner come to realize that fine art, architecture, and engineering each have their technical and social histories which provide context and a measure of expectation for current and, indeed, future endeavors. Perhaps military history can serve equally well. Enter Christopher Bellamy, bearing his new book *The Evolution of Modern Land Warfare*.

The author largely succeeds in providing a summary of the way modern land warfare, military thinking, and concepts have evolved, and simultaneously makes the case for the utility of competently researched military history. Let the reader be warned, Bellamy is both a professional

research historian and a professional soldier. In his view, useful illumination can be drawn from the full range of the human military experience: Asian military history is just as legitimate as European military history. The study of military operations is, he believes, a neglected historical field, and historical context is a powerful tool in current decision making.

The resulting work is a beautifully researched, nicely written, and well edited book, well worth a leisurely week's reading and contemplation. The air-land community will find this book useful and enlightening. The maritime community is unlikely to find a more accessible and well conceived introduction to modern land warfare. Now that we have fondled the package, let us examine the contents.

The first four chapters are a guided tour through the ground rules of land warfare: the connection between technology and techniques and warfare, and the expansion of the battlefield and the restoration of large-scale maneuver resulting from the industrialization of warfare. There is little that is new or controversial in this section. One may say that it serves its purpose of preparing the reader for what comes later. There is one nuance in this section which this reviewer would have liked expanded (with all due respect to the dangers of Pandora's box). It is Mr. Bellamy's opinion that most of the cliché's about the Great War are "gross over-simplifications or completely wrong." This reviewer believes that his view is

correct; its importance is simply not developed.

Most of these "cliché's" arose in the popular history of Liddell Hart and J.F.C. Fuller between 1916 and 1956. These two writers dramatically influenced two generations of historians and soldiers. It can reasonably be said that modern American Civil War history is little more than an expansion of Fuller's and Liddell Hart's footnotes. If one really believes in the central utility of military history, a few cautionary paragraphs on the dangers of erudite former soldiers with broad-axes to grind might have been in order.

Bellamy "gets serious" in chapter five and treats his readers to a case study of military history applied to the Operational Maneuver Group concept, which dominated Nato's Central Front nightmare in the early 1980s. The author traces this concept through sixty years of Soviet military thought, shows both its virtues and limitations, and has convinced this reader that a knowledge of serious military history can provide near-immunity from the alarms and excursions of popular fads in the military science arena. This chapter is a useful review of concentrated mobile warfare.

A second serious dose is offered in chapter six, with an introduction to the scale and mobility associated with Asian mobile warfare and guerrilla warfare. Here we find a rich understanding of two manifestations of dispersed mobile combat, both highly multi-disciplinary in nature. In Asia,

as elsewhere, politics, economics, military science, and human nature produce an exquisitely braided rope of complexity. The Asian and European variants are quite different and arise from geography, population densities, distances, and culture.

In the final chapter the author offers his conclusions and prognoses. They are simple and insightful.

This reviewer has no hesitation in recommending this book to any serious student of military affairs.

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Shenk, Robert. *Guide to Naval Writing: A Practical Handbook for the Naval Professional*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1990. 349pp. \$22.95

"What are you trying to say? Rewrite this!" Every officer who has ever stood in front of an executive officer has heard those fateful words. Many sea-service professionals would rather stand consecutive midwatches or take "zero-zero traps" than take pen in hand or sit at a keyboard. Although driving the ship, flying the plane, or diving the boat require carefully developed skill, expressing oneself clearly in writing is perhaps the most difficult task faced regularly by officers and senior enlisted people.

Over the years the art of writing in the navy has been akin to a secret handshake. Those who have never been able to crack the code should take heart, for help is finally at hand.

Robert Shenk, a naval officer and professor of English at two service academies, has written a book that bridges the gap between fitness report word-lists and professional style manuals.

This handbook is specifically aimed at the unique requirements of the sea-going officer. Based on interviews with hundreds of naval professionals, it is a jewel. It is filled with common sense and practical advice, and covers all aspects of every writing assignment regularly required of navy and marine corps personnel. Although for decades guides for writing fitness reports have been passed around the fleet, common documents such as naval letters and messages have been given short shrift. Not so in this work. Each of these, along with other reports and forms, is carefully and thoroughly analyzed in separate chapters. In addition to format guides and completed examples (both good and bad) that tell how a phrase should be constructed, the *Guide* explains why it should be written that way.

This is a reference book that not only shows how to draft an effective press release but also how to eliminate emotion in writing and how to use sex-neutral language. It includes a very useful ready reference on the mechanics of writing (capitalization and punctuation), and contains an extensive list of abbreviations and acronyms used in naval messages.

From this description, one could reasonably surmise that this handbook is the usual dry, boring reading normally associated with textbooks. On