## Naval War College Review

Volume 40	Article 15
Number 2 Spring	Article 15

1987

## "History of the Art of War Within the Framework of Political History: Vol. III, The Middle Ages," "History of the Art of War Within the Framework of Political History: Vol. IV, The Modern Era"

John B. Hattendorf

Hans Delbrück

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review

## **Recommended** Citation

Hattendorf, John B. and Delbrück, Hans (1987) ""History of the Art of War Within the Framework of Political History: Vol. III, The Middle Ages," "History of the Art of War Within the Framework of Political History: Vol. IV, The Modern Era"," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 40 : No. 2, Article 15.

Available at: https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol40/iss2/15

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu.

The search for the destruction of the enemy's organized forces is not exclusive of waging war on its lines of communication.

There is no absolute determinism in the confrontation between the land and the sea. Castex preaches an adjustment to the natural constraints in setting up an amphibious military force. A maritime power must be able to project its forces ashore while the continental power has to deploy a maritime capability. Victory will reward the one who, a master in his own element, will be able to encounter his opponent on his own element.

In his thoroughly documented and perfectly legible survey, Hervé Coutau-Bégarie goes well beyond the mere analysis of Admiral Castex' unrecognized thought. He follows the same intellectual path that Raymond Aron entered in his famous Clausewitz, Philosopher of War.

Beyond the lapsed part of Castex' work, Hervé Coutau-Bégarie makes the best use of the concepts which are still relevant according to him. He uses them as a foundation for a better understanding of maritime strategy and geopolitics in the nuclear age and of the Soviet challenge with its Red flag now deployed on the seven seas.

The importance of Hervé Coutau-Bégarie's two books lies in the result of the trilateral research conducted upon Castex-his life, his works and the lessons of his works. The first book really deserves to be translated into English so that a thought which "represents perhaps the best synthesis between Mahan and the Jeune Ecole," according to Theodore Ropp, "Recognition of the mutual inter-Published by U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons, 1987

could be at last recognized. At the same time, a second element could also be recognized, the shrewd quality of the updating work achieved by a young French scholar as impassioned by the maritime strategy, as Castex himself was.

MICHEL P. GEVREY Commander, French Navy

Delbrück, Hans. History of the Art of War Within the Framework of Political History: Vol. III, The Middle Ages. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1982. 711pp. \$55

Delbrück, Hans. History of the Art of War Within the Framework of Political History: Vol. IV, The Modern Era. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1985. 487pp, \$75

The translation of the first two volumes of this work was noticed in the Naval War College Review (Winter 1979, pp. 104-105 and March-April 1981, pp. 109-111). With the publication of the translation of volumes 3 and 4, Brigadier General Walter J. Renfroe, Jr., U.S. Army (Ret.) has completed his monumental task and done great service to students of military philosophy, theory and history. Delbrück's work is indeed a classic which every serious student in these areas should read, and it is now made far more accessible in an English translation, However, Delbrück's intent was not merely to write for specialists in the narrow realm of military history. As he wrote in the introduction to the fourth volume,

action between tactics, strategy, national organization, and politics throws light on the relationship of these subjects to universal history, and thus has clarified many points which were previously obscured or misunderstood. This work has been written not for the sake of the art of war but in the interest of world history . . . . For the art of war is an art like painting, architecture or pedagogy, and the entire cultural existence of peoples is determined to a high degree by their military organizations, which in turn are closely related to the technique of warfare, tactics, and strategy."

For Delbrück. The Modern Era ends with a discussion of Napoleonic strategy. The research for the final volume had nearly been finished in 1914 when war broke out, but the book itself was not completed and published until 1919. Since that time, there have been many advances in the field of military history and our knowledge about some issues has improved in detail, but the general thrust of Delbrück's work has not been seriously challenged. It remains the most detailed analytical study of the relationship of warfare to politics, covering 2,000 years of history. Most importantly for us at the Naval War College, Delbrück stresses the essential idea which is so important to our courses and research work: military and naval affairs are political matters, inextricably intertwined in the cultural and economic substance of nations.

Godson, Roy, ed. Intelligence Requirements for the 1980's: Intelligence and Policy. Lexington, Mass.: Lexington Books, 1986. 192pp. \$14.95

What sort of full service intelligence does the United States need for the rest of this century to carry out national security policy? What sort of intelligence policy is required to achieve it? These are the questions addressed in *Intelligence and Policy* the final volume of a seven-part series that stems from a colloquium that involved 70 White House, Capitol Hill and CIA professionals.

This book consists of five essayseach written by one of the colloquium participants-on intelligence and the Presidency, intelligence and foreign policy, intelligence in formulating defense policy, covert action and counterintelligence as an instrument of policy, and the effectiveness of congressional oversight. Following each selection are comments by some of the other colloquium participants. At times they are more interesting and more readable than the main chapters. While Gary Schmitt's essay on oversight is so turgid that the reader fights every page, the subsequent discussion is sharp and provocative. The participants give concrete examples, including the revelation of AM LASH-the Cuban insider involved in the Kennedy administration's plots to assassinate Fidel Castro-and Jimmy Carter's disclosure to the Sandanistas of CIA data on Nicaraguan gunrunning to El Salvador. More than in the main essay, the discussion explains the dangers arising from some Congress-