

1967

## Links of Leadership

G. H. Wilson  
*U.S. Navy*

John Laffin

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Wilson, G. H. and Laffin, John (1967) "Links of Leadership," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 20 : No. 5 , Article 22.  
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol20/iss5/22>

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](mailto:repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu).

negotiations. He describes the numerous forms of negotiation and negotiatory processes and tactics that are available to governments. The author, as a top Indian diplomat, was a participant in many negotiations and vital conferences during nearly 20 years after World War II. He dealt with issues at the United Nations and elsewhere in the interest of his country; consequently, he does have firsthand knowledge of the subject. Mr. Andrew W. Cordier, Dean of the School of International Affairs at Columbia University, in his foreword to the book says, "In illustration of the many forms and processes of negotiation, Professor Lall presents a highly useful analysis of the major issues of concern to our generation. He presents the story in fascinating detail and sometimes reflects his own role in the diplomatic kaleidoscope." This reviewer found it very difficult to read and not in the least fascinating, but it does contain a lot of useful detailed information for someone interested in the subject.

J.W. COTTON, JR.  
Lieutenant Colonel,  
U.S. Air Force

Laffin, John. *Links of Leadership*. London: Harrap, 1966. 304 p.

*Links of Leadership* is subtitled "Thirty Centuries of Command" and addresses the thesis that every victorious military commander has inherited something of his ability from his predecessors. Starting with Gideon, in about 1200 B.C., and ending with Montgomery at El Alamein in 1942, Mr. Laffin selects some two dozen or more great captains and discusses their most famous battles. In so doing, he gives us a brief history of land warfare, emphasizing the significant turning points in the development of weaponry and tactics and the evolution of the principles of war. In such a short book with such an ambitious scope, Mr. Laffin cannot do justice to his thesis to the satisfaction of the average reader. This reviewer's impression is of a rambling, often confusing or disconnected, helter-skelter dash through the ages, interspersed with a number of rather shaky conclusions. To the military history buff, already well-read in the field, the book may well prove to be quite interesting,

**PROFESSIONAL READING**

135

authoritative, and scholarly; it is to this group that it is recommended.

G.H. WINSLOW  
Commander, U.S. Navy