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The Joint and Combined Staff Officer's Manual

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in broad principles, he feels, the people can then determine, criticize and manage policy properly for themselves.

One doesn't have to agree with all Mr. Ways' detailed premises to find this book exciting and thought-provoking. It is, moreover, a thoughtful attempt to explore what the author considers to be an ideological vacuum behind our national aims and objectives, the political results of it that are operative today, and some suggestions as to how constructively to fill this vacuum so that our nation will have a working public philosophy. Henry Luce contributes an interesting foreword which outlines the background for this work and takes gentle exception to some of Mr. Ways' overly pessimistic observations and positions. All in all, a worthwhile volume for every War College officer, and one which is particularly timely in the light of the task assigned to the students of creating a National Security paper in the Strategy Studies curriculum item of the course in Naval Warfare.

Nicholas, Jack D. et al. *The Joint and Combined Staff Officer's Manual*. Harrisburg, Pa., Stackpole, 1959. 272 p.

This is a timely and much needed manual for all staff officers of all services. Designed primarily as a guide for officers assigned to U. S. joint and allied combined commands, it applies equally well to all officers, and is recommended as required reading for many service schools and senior officers. This book fills a definite gap in the professional reading and reference book library of military officers. It contains a compilation of joint principles and procedures, and describes the operational planning underlying joint and combined action. It includes excellent analyses of the new unified command concept; what is involved in joint and combined planning; and the relationship between national strategy and military strategy. It defines, and places in their proper relationship to the whole, the rather elusive terms: the national interest, national interests, national objectives, national policies, national commitments, national principles, national strategy and military strategy. Of

particular value to all military officers are the answers to questions such as: How does a staff officer write and how does he speak? What are the qualities of a good staff officer? Also provided are guides for preparing staff studies, estimates, plans and orders, and finally an appendix with eighteen complete formats and a glossary of selected military terms. The book is complete and the authors, three military members of the faculty of the Armed Forces Staff College, have dealt objectively and thoroughly with their material. An invaluable addition to a professional library.

Greenfield, Kent Roberts, ed. *Command Decisions*. New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1959. 482 p.

This volume was prepared by the Office of the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army, to satisfy the needs of the Army's Command and General Staff School. It is a complete and interesting examination of the twenty most crucial and controversial decisions of World War II. It is not a comprehensive history of the war; it reflects only the highlights. Sixteen authors contributed the twenty articles which comprise the book. Each of these authors presents an unbiased, factual and well-documented account of his particular subject. The writings contain little interpretation and no opinion except that brought out by the factual account. Some of the articles (or chapters) have been published elsewhere, e.g., "Japan's Decision for War," by Louis Morton appeared in the *U. S. Naval Institute Proceedings*, December 1954, and "The Anvil Decision: Crossroads of Strategy," by Maurice Matloff appeared in the same publication in July 1958. Hanson Baldwin has written a perceptive introduction to this book. In it he quotes Voltaire as saying that history can only be well written in a free country. The book bears out the authenticity of this statement, as each article is painstakingly and comprehensively documented. Only in free countries could historians have access to such a volume of information and the freedom to write the unbiased facts. *Command Decisions* is recommended