

1952

Recommended Reading

The U.S. Naval War College

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War College, The U.S. Naval (1952) "Recommended Reading," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 5 : No. 2 , Article 5.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol5/iss2/5>

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RECOMMENDED READING

Current Books

The evaluations of books listed below include those recommended to resident students of the Naval War College. Officers in the fleet and elsewhere may find these of interest.

Many of these publications may be found in ship and station libraries. Some of the publications not available from these sources may be obtained from the Bureau of Naval Personnel Auxiliary Library Service where a collection of books are available for loan to individual officers. Requests for the loan of these books should be made by the individual to the nearest branch or the Chief of Naval Personnel. (See Article C-9604, Bureau of Naval Personnel Manual, 1948)

- Title:** *Red China's Fighting Hordes.* 346 p.
- Author:** Rigg, Lt. Col. Robert B. Harrisburg, The Military Service Pub. Co., 1951
- Evaluation:** A description and account of Red China's war machine, its people and personalities. The writer presents a very real picture of the Army's strengths, order of battle, tactics and future development. This book will afford the reader a greater appreciation of Red China and the troops now being encountered in Korea.
- Title:** *The Aleutians, Gilberts and Marshalls.* 353 p.
- Author:** Morison, S. E., Boston, Little, Brown. 1951
- Evaluation:** Constitutes Morison's fifth volume devoted to Naval action in the Pacific and the seventh in his "History of United States Naval Operations in World War II." In 332 well-annotated pages, supplemented by appendices showing forces involved, he has recorded in detail all phases of the Aleutians, Gilberts and Marshalls campaigns. His treatment of the subject reflects the objectivity and concern for accuracy of the true historian, flavored with the naval officer's ability to discern what is relevant or irrelevant to Naval history. Since in all phases of a campaign or op-

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eration pertinent events are just as frequently concurrent as they are sequential, the narrative jumps from place to place, but the theme is never lost. It is a detailed chronicle of the Pacific war from the beginning of the Aleutians Campaign to the end of the Marshalls Campaign. It will be of interest to both civilian and military readers.

Title: *A Foreign Policy for Americans.* 127 p.
Author: Taft, Robert A. N. Y. Garden City, Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1951

Evaluation: A statement of Senator Taft's views on events of today, and on the vital subject of the United States' role in international relations. Senator Taft says: "Fundamentally, I believe, the ultimate purpose of our foreign policy must be to protect the liberty of the people of the United States. War should never be undertaken, or seriously risked, except to protect American liberty." The implications of the above concept are far-reaching, and in the 127 pages of this book, the Senator lucidly develops his theme, as he discusses the role and development of United States foreign policy until its present (in his mind) confused state. While the reader may not agree with all of the Senator's views, his characteristic ability to think logically, and to state his thoughts clearly, make this book well worth serious study. This is all the more important since the tide of political events in the United States during the next year may well make these policies and concepts an important element in establishing the course and path of our nation.

Title: *The Philippines and the United States.* 315 p.
Author: Grunder, Garel A. and Livezey, William E. Norman, Okla., Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1951

Evaluation: A thorough study of the development of the policy of the United States towards the Philippines during the half century those islands were a dependency of this country. The study begins with the acquisition of the Philippines by the United States in 1898 as a by-product of the Spanish-American War. It shows how our government, inexperienced as a colonial power, handled the vital, social

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and economic problems of the islands and finally granted complete independence to the Republic of the Philippines in 1946. The story of the policy of the United States towards the Philippines is unique in modern colonial history and is significant in the light it throws on the present position of the United States in the Far East. These islands are important strategic assets of the United States, and this country is the principal guarantor of the continued security of the new republic. The book is authentically written with ample reference to source material.

Title: *Administration of Foreign Affairs and Overseas Operations.* 367 p.

Author: Washington, D. C., Brookings Institution, 1951

Evaluation: This volume contains the report of a study on governmental administration prepared by the Brookings Institution under contract to The Bureau of the Budget. The first three chapters of the report are devoted respectively to a review of factors basic to the conduct of foreign relations in the world today, to recent developments in government organizations affecting the administration of foreign affairs, and to key elements of administrative doctrine for major units of the government. Six chapters then follow, each of which is devoted to the detailed examination of a complex problem involving a number of main issues and alternative courses of action.

Title: *The Secret Army.* 396 p.

Author: Komorowski, T. N. Y., Macmillan Co., 1951

Evaluation: An authoritative account of the Polish underground movement that operated so successfully against the German occupation between 1939 and 1945. Written by the Commander-in-Chief of the Polish "Home Army" that rose from the underground and seized the city of Warsaw, it recounts the tragic sequence of events in that ill-fated insurrection of 1944. This book is of value in its treatment of the organization, operational control, and effectiveness of an underground army. It is believed to be of particular interest and is recommended reading for the study of unconventional types of warfare.

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- Title:** *Policy Sciences.* 397 p.
Press, 1951
- Author:** Lerner, Daniel. Stanford, Stanford University
- Evaluation:** An attempt to evaluate the temporary developments in research within the social sciences, with emphasis upon methodology and techniques. This symposium brings together the views of a number of prominent social scientists, from different fields, upon the question of the systematic organization of knowledge with the entire body of the social sciences. Although the various contributors seem to have been rather poorly organized and the book does not achieve a tightly integrated argument, it does provide a very valuable summary of the subject. The contributions of Lazarsfeld, Arrow and Reichenbach have direct implications for modern strategy. The contributions of the anthropologists, although of a high quality, are much less useful to the military observer. Actual results of research are used only to illustrate techniques in all cases.
- Title:** *The United States, Turkey and Iran.* 284 p.
- Author:** Thomas, Lewis V. & Frye, Richard N. Cambridge, Harvard Univ. Press, 1951
- Evaluation:** A discussion of Turkey and Iran, past and present, with an account of today's problems, and relationships. An excellent presentation of Turkish and Iranian society, culture, and economy against the background of history, remote and recent. Highly recommended reading for individuals particularly interested in this area and valuable for reference use in general.
- Title:** *The Russian-American Company.* 296 p.
- Author:** Okun, S. B. Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1951
- Evaluation:** One of the products of the Russian translation project of Harvard, this volume is an English version of an official record. It presents a fascinating account of a phase of world and American history of which the Western world has little knowledge: the opinions, the imperial machinations, and the ruthless lust for power of a state-spon-

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sored private-adventurer group beside whom the East India Company were timid amateurs. The Russian-American Company was the vehicle through which the state of Ivan and Peter spread its influence across the vast expanses of Asia, the North Pacific, and down the coasts of America to San Francisco and the shores of Hawaii in the course of only a century and a half. It is a record of heroic adventure, of calculating use of power of white men's weapons and techniques to further the imperial ambitions of Tsarist Russia and to satisfy a lust for furs. Little-known facets of Russian ambitions, based on Russian records are revealed, one of which was the possible acquisition, in due course of time, of Haiti and some other Caribbean Islands. It is worthwhile reading to those who desire to broaden their understanding of both American history and Russian imperial designs; but it is both long and difficult reading, and deals with a relatively unimportant phase of imperial expansion.

Title: *Cross-Channel Attack.* 492 p.

Author: Harrison, Gordon A. Washington, D. C.,
Dept. of the Army, 1951

Evaluation: The first volume in the series narrating the events of World War II in the European Theater of Operations, deals with the development of strategy and planning for the attack on northwest Europe in 1944 and with the first month of operations establishing Allied armies in France. About two-thirds of the book is concerned with the preparations and discussions of strategy on both Allied and German sides from 1941 to 1944, while the remainder describes the combat operations in Normandy from 6 June to 1 July 1944.

Title: *Seven Fallen Pillars.* 320 p.

Author: Kimche, Jon. London, Secker & Warburg, 1950

Evaluation: The story of the decline of British influence in the Middle East, and of the mixture and conflict of Arab, Jewish, British, and U. S. interests in that area during 1945-1950. A chronology of important events from 1915 to 1950 precedes the main text. A greater portion of the book deals with the incubation and hatching of the new state of Israel and the unsuccessful and disconnected efforts to

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create a strong Arab League. Although the author is a British journalist, he is highly critical of British official bungling in the Middle East, sympathetic with the creation of Israel and also sympathetic with the Arab peoples. He points to the growth of U. S. influence, while maintaining a critical attitude toward the "weather-cocking" U. S. policy in the Middle East. The book results from ten years' close experience with the area, interviews with countless persons, high and low, concerned with problems there, and the chronicling of events during this period. It is packed with detail and commentary, giving the impression of being compounded of boiled-down newspaper reports and the journalist's personal diary. It is replete with short punch-line sentences, maintaining a high level of emphasis, but leaving the reader somewhat at a loss for useful analytical conclusions. This book is recommended for those who are already conversant with the Middle East and who desire to fill in details or gain objectivity. The chronology is useful for reference.

- Title:** *Great Sailor.* 338 p.
- Author:** Vandercook, John W. N. Y., Dial Press, 1951
- Evaluation:** A biography of Capt. James Cook, R. N., the explorer and surveyor of much of the Pacific Ocean areas. It tells of his epochal voyages of discovery and exploration, how he carefully charted the areas he explored and how he defeated scurvy, that bane of maritime existence of his time. It is the story of a painstaking, efficient, sailor-scientist who added more territory to the British Empire than has been added by all British wars up to his day. The book is written in a somewhat florid but entertaining style.
- Title:** *Eastern Zone and Soviet Policy in Germany,*
- Author:** Nettl, J. P. London, Oxford Univ. Press, 1951
1945-1950. 314 p.
- Evaluation:** To the serious student of Soviet policy, this book will offer much concerning just what the Russian attitudes and methods of operation have been in the Eastern Zone of Germany. Political and administrative problems, as well as those concerned with economic development are