

1950

Recommended Reading

The U.S. Naval War College

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RECOMMENDED READING

For those officers wishing to pursue a course in professional reading, the Naval War College *Reading List* is published here-with. The list contains books and articles in many varied fields and totals approximately 7,000 pages.

I. UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA

<i>“War or Peace”</i>	Dulles (1950)	PP 266
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This book, autobiographical in nature, is a study of the present world situation and what might and should be done about it. Mr. Dulles presents the military structure of the Communist Party and reveals a keen understanding of its techniques and objectives. As stated in his conclusion, “If our efforts are still inadequate, it is because we have not seen clearly the challenge and its nature”. He does much to correct this.

<i>“The Coming Defeat of Communism”</i>	Burnham (1949)	278
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An appraisal of the workings of Communism and the optimistic opinion that Communism will be defeated. The author, an ex-Communist is thoroughly familiar with the methods and objectives of Communism and against this background critically examines our containment policy. The premise advanced in an earlier book, “The Struggle for the World”, that we are at war now with Communism and have been since 1943 is again proposed. The author’s plan consists of recognizing this state of war; determining the objective which he believes should be nothing short of the defeat of Russian-based communist power; and conducting an

RESTRICTED

39

RESTRICTED

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offensive political-subversive war. This type of unorthodox warfare would consist basically of propaganda warfare in all its many ramifications. The author believes that Communism and Capitalism are irreconcilable. Convincing conclusions are drawn of the world political scene but the plan of action for the defeat of Communism is not clearly outlined.

"My Three Years in Moscow" Lt. Gen. W. B. Smith (1950) 335

General Smith's report covers his personal and official experiences and problems as United States ambassador to Russia from March 1946 to March 1949. It is illuminating and interesting, particularly because of the combined military and ambassadorial character of General Smith.

Pares (1949) 215

A short history of Russia written by the distinguished Russian historian. The epilogue gives an evaluation of Russia's internal situation and her position in the world today.

"The Price of Power" Baldwin (1947) 328

A thorough presentation of the political, economic and military position of the United States and an inventory of the military strength, new military developments and industrial power of the United States in relation to other world powers. New world strategy and new tactical considerations are discussed. Possibilities as to the future course of events are analyzed in the light of the foregoing.

RESTRICTED

"Half Slave, Half Free" Abend (1950) **PP**
291

A veteran newsman's world-wide coverage of the gloomy Cold War situation as of early 1950. With no punches pulled he appraises the gains of Communism and the sporadic and ineffective short range diplomatic efforts of the U. S. to curb its growth throughout the world.

"Blueprint for World Conquest as Outlined by the Communist International" (1946) **258**

The Communist equivalent of "Mein Kampf". A reprint of some original Communist documents in which they have set forth exactly what and how they plan to conquer the world.

"Is War with Russia Inevitable" (Reader's Digest, March, 1950)
Kennan **9**

This article, written by a high official of the State Department, brilliantly examines the conflict with Russian Communism and those considerations influencing the commencement of an all-out war. The author gives us a framework of rather vague generalities which, if carried out, few will disagree should guide us successfully through the present "cold war". He concludes that war, although a possibility, is not probable in the light of an analysis of the future course of Russia and Russian Communism.

"Sources of Soviet Conduct" "X" Foreign Affairs, July 1947
(Kennan) **17**

Concise, hard-hitting evaluation of Russian and Communist aims and their determination to overthrow the West and defeat capitalism.

RESTRICTED **41**

RESTRICTED

PP
42

"Stalin on Revolution" "Historicus"
Foreign Affairs, January 1949

An authoritative analysis of Stalin's pronouncements and of their influence on Communist thinking and policy throughout the world.

**II. WORLD WAR II AND THE FUTURE EMPLOYMENT
OF MILITARY FORCES**

"Modern Arms and Free Men" Vannevar Bush (1949) 264

Dr. Bush scientifically evaluates modern weapons and assigns them relative importance in a future war. Moreover he relates the weapons to man's eternal struggle for freedom from domination by those who would dominate. He clearly shows why education is a basic requirement in a democratic system. Throughout the book the author's deep belief in the ultimate triumph of men of good will is manifest.

The book is at once significant and authoritative. Published as it is at the very moment the United States is preparing to embark on a huge program for military defense of Western Europe, its value is inestimable. For Dr. Bush points out that today defensive weapons (with some notable exceptions such as the submarine) appear to be gaining over offensive power. The book has only one apparent defect. It was written before the atomic explosion in Russia. The military man who reads this book (and none can afford not to) will encounter statements which Dr. Bush might not have made had he known of the explosion.

RESTRICTED**PP****274*****"Operation Survival"*****Hessler (1949)**

This important and timely book strikes deep at the roots of world and national problems and appraises the factors influencing our national policies today. The geopolitical scene, carefully related to our own responsibilities in the world today, is brilliantly examined. The importance of sea power to us because of our favorable geographic position is carefully delineated to show its impact in the shaping of a sound foreign policy. Military strategy, as it is being evolved in the highest councils of government, is critically examined. Mass destruction area bombing, as a method of conducting strategic air warfare, is strongly attacked from the standpoint of being militarily unsound and morally indefensible.

The author makes a strong case to discredit the Douhet concept of strategic air warfare. However, Mr. Hessler in no way deprecates the effectiveness of land-based air. The military advantages open to us as an "island power" (strategic connotation of the phrase) of exercising the offensive capability of sea-air power in any foreseeable war is enthusiastically developed. Whether or not one agrees with the emphasis placed on the strategic significance of carrier-based tactical air does not detract from his conclusion which no student of air power can contest: i. e., the heart of air power is command of the air, and further, the fighter plane is the means of gaining or disputing this ultimate goal.

This book is worthy of conscientious study by all members of the military services. Readers will find exam-

RESTRICTED**43**

RESTRICTED

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ples of the author's navy partisanship. However, the vital problems dealt with are clearly and logically expressed and analyzed.

"U. S. Naval Logistics in the Second World War"

Ballantine (1947)

308

While the title is very broad, the book confines itself primarily to a discussion of National and Departmental Logistics. In this restricted field the author makes an excellent analysis of an important problem.

"If Russia Strikes"

Eliot (1949)

252

A discussion of the probability of a war between the U. S. S. R. and her satellites and the Western Powers, the character and timing of such a war, the probable theaters, roles of the various armed forces on both sides, etc. in the near future.

"Soviet Arms and Air Power"

Guillaume (1949)

212

This book recounts briefly the highlights of the military operations in Germany and USSR on the Eastern Front during World War II. It contains an analysis of the factors of Soviet strength, including: the command and administrative structure of the Red Army and its relationship to the Communist party; factors of manpower and populations; morale; and the employment of ground and air forces. The most significant aspect of this book is the treatment given the war effort of the Soviet economy.

"What Kind of War" (Atlantic Monthly, July, 1949) Baldwin

20

Hanson Baldwin gives us a refreshing presentation

RESTRICTED

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of the all too neglected principle that the determination of the objective is the first step in the preparation for war. He then discusses the capabilities and limitations of atomic and strategic air warfare, atomic policy, and the political, psychological and morale factors in war.

"The Atlantic Pact" Hoskins (1949) 100

This book gives a brief but thorough account of the events leading up to the Atlantic Pact, and also tells why each country joined the Pact. It is complete in citing specific speeches and doctrines, as well as in furnishing a reproduction of the Pact itself. An excellent account of U. S. foreign policy as it is today.

"Western European Union" Hawtrey (1949) 126

A primer for the English public, setting forth the English point of view on European Union, including the problems with proposed solutions. The whole problem is related to the Marshall Plan, military aid, and the North Atlantic Pact. Every officer of the services of the USA should read this in order to appreciate the viewpoint of our main ally. It is clearly and simply written and the reading is easy.

"Bombing and Strategy" Dickens (1946) 90

In this short book the author analyzes and criticizes British aerial strategy (particularly strategic bombing) of World War II. Concerned primarily with the integration of bombing and other military and naval efforts as they affect the British Isles, it contains much food for thought for military planners as re-

RESTRICTED

45

RESTRICTED

PP

gards the employment of air power in a balanced fleet.

"The Bismarck Episode" Grenfell (1948) 219

A detailed account of the chase and sinking of the German battleship Bismarck.

"Summary Reports, European and Pacific Wars"
U.S.S.B.S. (1945-46) 50

In two parts. A concise report of the results obtained by strategic bombing in the European and Pacific Theaters including conclusions, lessons learned and future trends.

"The Role of Sea Power in Global Warfare of the Future"
(Brassey's Naval Annual, 1947) Rosinski 14

A brief article in which Dr. Rosinski develops the thesis that sea power will continue to be a fundamental and decisive historical force.

III. COMMAND AND ORGANIZATION

"The Art of War." Sun Tzu 99

This is a 1944 edition of the Giles translation of one of the greatest military classics ever written. The book comprises thirteen short chapters. In the first paragraph Sun Tzu writes "The art of war is of vital importance to the state. It is a matter of life and death, a road either to safety or ruin. Hence it is a subject of inquiry which can on no account be neglected". From that point he proceeds to an enunciation of the principles of war, and to an examination of them. This is a book that should be read by every

RESTRICTED

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officer and would be a valuable addition to his personal library.

"Makers of Modern Strategy" (Selections) Earle (1944)

This book is an outgrowth of a seminar on military affairs which was conducted at the Institute for Advanced Study. Twenty well known historians trace the development of modern military thought in brief, and in some cases brilliant, studies of the contributions of Clausewitz, Jomini, Mahan, Douhet, and Foch (among others) to current military thinking.

"Generals and Generalship" Wavell (1943) 36

The qualities that a general must possess, the abilities he must have to handle his troops, and his relationship with the statesmen who command his activities are ably presented by Field Marshall Wavell in this book.

"Organization, A Formulation of Principle" Brown (1945) 308

A treatise on the basic principles of organization.

IV. ATOMIC ENERGY

"Fear, War and the Bomb" Blackett (1948) 236

Professor Blackett first analyzes air power in the last war, then the atom bomb as a weapon. With these two studies as a premise, he proceeds to discuss the bomb's strategic consequences. The author's background as an atomic scientist, a former member of Great Britain's Advisory Committee on Atomic Energy, and as a military man, plus the carefully chosen quotations from numerous authorities, combine to make this part

RESTRICTED

47

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PP

of the book convincing. The second half of the work is devoted to the political implications of the bomb, and here the author displays so much bias that one naturally questions the conclusions drawn in the first half. The book is so controversial that it probably will be widely read.

'Must We Hide?' Lapp (1949) 182

A short discussion of the results of the first five A-bomb bursts. Dr. Lapp, Executive Director of the Committee on Atomic Energy of the Research and Development Board, develops the capabilities of the bomb and demonstrates these capabilities by relating the various types of bursts to the damage each would produce in an American city.

"The Effects of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki"
U.S.S.B.S. (1946) 43

A condensed but complete report on the effects of the two bombs.

V. MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS

"United States and China" Fairbank (1949) 384

John King Fairbank is well qualified to write in the field he deals with in this book. He has lived for a number of years in China and traveled extensively there. He is at present in charge of the China Program at Harvard. Professor Fairbank states that his purpose is "to indicate some of the major currents which now form the tide of social change in China" and "to summarize the major patterns of thought and conduct, the major political and economic forms" which are in-

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grained in Chinese society. This purpose he accomplishes admirably. The book should be read by any officer who wishes to straighten out his thinking on the subject of our position in China, for in it Fairbank manages to separate the wheat from the chaff, and to present a reasoned, coherent picture of the forces that make China what it is.

"How New will the Better World be?" Becker (194) 246

A stimulating discussion of the post-war reconstruction period. The author diagnoses the present state of the world, with special attention to nationalism, sovereignty, power politics, and imperialism.

"How to Think Straight" Thouless (1939) 233

In direct, sprightly, nontechnical English, Professor Thouless discusses the most effective ways of achieving and maintaining a clear thinking, well-balanced and flexible mind.

"The Art of Plain Talk" Flesch (1946) 194

A book that tells how to talk plain. People whose business or desire it is to convey ideas will obtain valuable hints on effective presentation.

RESTRICTED

49

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This section lists material published in current periodicals which will be of interest and value to officers of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

"Strategy of Limited War"

By Ascoli, Schreiber, Deutscher & Hessler. The Reporter.
August 1.

"America Today: A Freehand Sketch"

By Lewis Galantiere. Foreign Affairs. July.

"Piercing the Iron Curtain"

By Lowell M. Clucas. The Yale Review. Summer 1950.

"Atomic Weapons and the Korean War"

Editorial Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. July.

"The Great Results of Korea"

By Ernest K. Lindley. Newsweek. August 7.

"Exaggerated Dangers of Germ Warfare"

American Mercury. July.

"American Policy Toward Russia"

By Quincy Wright. World Politics. July.

"The Strategy of World War III"

By Major-General J. F. C. Fuller and Alexander Mebane.
American Perspective. Summer, 1950.

"Geurrilla"

Parts I and II, by Colonel Samuel B. Griffith, II Marine
Corps Gazette, July and August.

"We're Betting our Shirts on the Atomic Submarine"

By Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood. Saturday
Evening Post of 22 July.

RESTRICTED

"Soviet War Potential is Rising"

U. S. News and World Report. July 14, 1950.

"Russia Today: Its Strength, Its Weakness, Its Ability to Wage War against the United States"

By Richard Wilson. Look. August 15, 1950.

RESTRICTED

51