

2022

## Reflections on Reading

The U.S. Naval War College

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Naval War College, The U.S. (2022) "Reflections on Reading," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 75: No. 3, Article 17.

Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol75/iss3/17>

This Reflections on Reading 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).

## REFLECTIONS ON READING

---

*Professor John E. Jackson of the Naval War College is the Program Manager for the Chief of Naval Operations Professional Reading Program.*

**C**hief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Michael M. Gilday recently released an update to his professional reading program. The CNO Professional Reading Program (CNO-PRP) now consists of twelve books, including a mix of fiction and nonfiction titles covering military strategy, management, leadership, technology, and other subjects relevant to the development of maritime professionals at all levels.

“A learning mindset is essential to accelerating our warfighting advantage,” said Gilday. “A Navy that learns, adapts, and improves the fastest will be the most successful. Knowledge sharing is essential to creating a learning culture.”

The goal of the program is to contribute to a culture dedicated to war fighting and learning, while simultaneously supporting the personal and professional development of sailors beyond that of their primary designator or rating.

“We are driving a fleet-wide campaign of self-improvement,” said Gilday. “We must foster an organization that supports and empowers Sailors to have an independent quest for knowledge through reading and information sharing. What you know and how fast you learn is relevant in this era of strategic competition.”

The following books are included in the newly released update:

*To Rule the Waves: How Control of the World's Oceans Shapes the Fate of the Superpowers*, by Bruce D. Jones

*A Brief Guide to Maritime Strategy*, by James R. Holmes

*China as a Twenty First Century Naval Power: Theory, Practice, and Implications*, by Michael A. McDevitt

*Not One Inch: America, Russia, and the Making of Post-Cold War Stalemate*, by M. E. Sarotte

*The Sailor's Bookshelf: Fifty Books to Know the Sea*, by Admiral James G. Stavridis, USN (Ret.)

*Army of None: Autonomous Weapons and the Future of War*, by Paul Scharre

*Fortune Favors Boldness: The Story of Naval Valor during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM*, by Vice Admiral Barry M. Costello, USN (Ret.)

*The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors: The Extraordinary World War II Story of the U.S. Navy's Finest Hour*, by James D. Hornfischer

*World War II at Sea: A Global History*, by Craig L. Symonds

*Ashley's War: The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield*, by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon

*Dare to Lead: Brave Work. Tough Conversations. Whole Hearts*, by Brené Brown

*Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*, by Carol S. Dweck

Additional information about these books can be found on the CNO-PRP website, [www.navy.mil/CNO-Professional-Reading-Program/](http://www.navy.mil/CNO-Professional-Reading-Program/). Most are available for loan at no cost to sailors in both e-book and digital audio format from the Navy MWR digital library collection. Eligible patrons can download the books at [www.navymwrdigitalibrary.org/](http://www.navymwrdigitalibrary.org/).

The motto of the CNO-PRP is Read Well to Lead Well. This slogan reflects the notion that a key component of the professional development of all maritime leaders is a career-long commitment to expanding their expertise via a self-directed program of study and reflection on issues relevant to their unique profession. The *Navy Leader Development Framework* notes that “[l]eaders with the passion to make ourselves and our teams the best do not wait for formal training or formal avenues—we get to it on our own. . . . The CNO’s Professional Reading Program provides a jumping-off point to build knowledge about competence, character, and connections.”

Even in these days of incessant social media, streaming television dramas, and wide-screen theatrical releases, the value (and comfort) of reading a book (in hard copy or digital format) is still significant. The connection between the written word and the mind of the reader is just as valuable today as it has been for centuries. I encourage you to set a personal goal to read as many of the great books on the CNO-PRP as you can over the next twelve to twenty-four

months. By doing so you will become a better leader, better citizen, and better human. Not bad for a few hours of effort each week. If you read well, you will lead well!

JOHN E. JACKSON

