

THE U.S. ARMY
CHIEF OF STAFF'S
**PROFESSIONAL
READING LIST**



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A course of personal study and contemplation is an essential component for the individual development of every Army professional. Each of us faces busy schedules every day and finding time to read and think is a recurring challenge. But even as we train our units and physically condition our bodies, we must improve our minds through reading and critical thinking.

Our Army operates in a complex strategic environment that demands each of us improve our knowledge of not only military affairs, but economics, politics, and international affairs. We must know how to train for new types of missions, how to deploy forces rapidly to distant regions around the world, and how to pursue innovation and change while preserving the Army's core capabilities in an era of fiscal constraint. The books on this list can sharpen our understanding of strategic landpower as an instrument of national power, the indispensable role of ethical leadership, and the extraordinary demands of land combat. I challenge each of you to read these books and to discuss, debate, and think critically about the ideas they contain.

Since 1775 our Army has safeguarded the United States, its allies, and our interests and served as an example of professional excellence. We have succeeded because our Soldiers, families, veterans, and civilians have selflessly trained and prepared themselves in both peace and war. Our Army heritage is distinguished. As we read and study our profession, we create new opportunities to serve our nation today and in the years ahead.



General Raymond T. Odierno, 38th Chief of Staff, Army



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The U.S. Army Chief of Staff's Professional Reading List is divided into three categories: Armies at War: Battles and Campaigns; The Army Profession; and Strategy and the Strategic Environment. These sub-lists are intended to steer readers to topics in which they are most interested. Each of these books is suitable for readers of any rank or position.

The books included in this list offer entry points into the many publications available regarding military art and science. They are provided as selected works that can help Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, and anyone interested in the Army to learn more about the Army profession and to sharpen their knowledge of the Army's long and distinguished history, as well as the decisive role played by landpower in conflicts across the centuries.

A sustained personal commitment to critical study of a wide range of readings constitutes an essential professional responsibility for members of the Army profession. The U.S. Army today confronts extraordinary complexity in the strategic environment with new and emerging missions competing with core warfighting requirements to challenge Army professionals. This reading list is intended to serve as a guide to the many topics worthy of professional consideration, contemplation, and serious discussion.

The appearance of a title on this reading list does not imply that the Chief of Staff endorses the author's views or interpretations. Nevertheless, these books contain thought-provoking ideas and viewpoints relevant to our Army.



ARMIES AT WAR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS

The AEF Way of War: The American Army and Combat in World War I

Mark E. Grotelueschen // New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007

This exemplary case study of doctrinal and tactical innovation under fire shows how four divisions of the American Expeditionary Forces adapted, or failed to adapt, to conditions on the Western Front during World War I. The 1st and 2d Divisions perfected artillery-infantry liaison so that by November 1918 they had achieved “state-of-the-art” tactical skills. Both the 26th and 77th Divisions failed to achieve this level of proficiency. How and why each unit approached change and innovation underscores this examination of the Army at war.

American Military History, vol. 2, The United States Army in a Global Era, 1917–2008

Richard W. Stewart, ed. // Washington, D.C.: U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2010

Created initially as a Reserve Officers' Training Corps textbook, this second volume in a two-volume overview of the Army's story covers the period from World War I to the early days of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Written in an engaging style and enhanced by sophisticated graphics and recommended readings, the work is an excellent source of general service history in the modern world.

Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era

James M. McPherson // New York: Oxford University Press, 1988

McPherson has written a brilliant account of the American Civil War—the war that made the country what it is today. He discusses in clear, incisive detail the causes of the war, the military operations, the Soldiers, the leaders, and the political, economic, and social aspects of life in the Union and the Confederacy before and during the conflict. A book many experts judge to be the best one-volume history of the Civil War, it provides an excellent introduction to the most significant war fought by the American Army.

Cables from Kabul: The Inside Story of the West's Afghanistan Campaign

Sherard Cowper-Coles // London: HarperCollins, 2011

The author, who was the British ambassador to Afghanistan from 2007 to 2010, wrote this pessimistic view of the war in Afghanistan at the conclusion of his tenure. In his opinion, the military continually gave overoptimistic assessments. Covering more than just Afghanistan, this book furnishes insights on Western diplomacy and the way the North Atlantic Treaty Organization operates, particularly in hostile territories.





The Cambridge Illustrated History of Warfare: The Triumph of the West

Geoffrey Parker, ed. // Rev. ed.; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008

Writing in a digestible, compelling manner, Parker's authors cover the gamut of Western warfare from antiquity to the present, including the development of warfare on land, sea, and air; weapons and technology; strategy, operations, and tactics; and logistics and intelligence. Throughout the book, there is an emphasis on the socioeconomic aspects of war and the nature of the West's military culture that enabled its global dominance.

Counterinsurgency: Exposing the Myths of the New Way of War

Douglas Porch // New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013

This book reviews American, British, and French experiences with counterinsurgency operations since the nineteenth century and argues that the strategy of winning "hearts and minds" has never worked as advertised. Porch demonstrates that force, rather than benevolent social engineering and nation building, has historically been the key to successful counterinsurgency operations. This book is a stimulating and thought-provoking counterpoint to existing U.S. Army doctrine, which in Porch's opinion is simply wishful thinking wrapped in myth.

Crucible of War: The Seven Years' War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754–1766

Fred Anderson // New York: Knopf, 2000

From the forests of frontier Ohio to the streets of London, Anderson provides rich detail and insightful analysis to explain how Great Britain, France, Spain, the Colonies, and Native Americans battled for supremacy in North America. The Seven Years' War, often called the first world war, featured a cast of state and non-state actors who competed in complex ways while commercial, diplomatic, and military interests maneuvered to seek advantages. The resultant security challenges of the eighteenth century are remarkably similar to those of today's global environment.



The Endgame: The Inside Story of the Struggle for Iraq, from George W. Bush to Barack Obama

Michael R. Gordon and Bernard E. Trainor // New York: Pantheon Books, 2012

Clausewitz concluded that war is a continuation of politics by other means. War also requires an understanding of the human domain. *The Endgame* is an exhaustively researched account of the war in Iraq that seeks to explain the political dynamics underlying the conflict, the motivations of the actors who took part, and the social fabric against which a violent struggle for power took place. This is an essential work for any Army leader who wishes to grasp the complex character of any war in the contemporary age.

The Face of Battle: A Study of Agincourt, Waterloo, and the Somme

John Keegan // New York: Viking, 1976

One of the classics of modern military history, *The Face of Battle* brings to life three major battles: Agincourt (1415), Waterloo (1815), and the first battle of the Somme (1916). Keegan describes the sights, sounds, and smells of combat, providing a compelling look at what it means to be a Soldier and how difficult it is to understand the dynamics of combat.

Grunts: Inside the American Infantry Combat Experience, World War II Through Iraq

John C. McManus // New York: NAL Caliber, 2010

Historian John C. McManus covers six decades of warfare, from the fight on the island of Guam in 1944 to today's counterinsurgency in Iraq. He demonstrates that despite advances of weaponry, the foot Soldier has been the most indispensable and overlooked factor in wartime victory. McManus stresses that the importance of the human element in protecting the United States is too often forgotten, and he advances a passionate plea for fundamental change in our understanding of war.

Pacific Blitzkrieg: World War II in the Central Pacific

Sharon Tosi Lacey // Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2013

Lacey closely examines the planning, preparation, and execution of ground operations at the corps and division level for five major invasions in the Central Pacific: Guadalcanal, Tarawa, the Marshall Islands, Saipan, and Okinawa. The commanders had to integrate the U.S. Army and Marine Corps into a single operational force, something that would have been difficult enough in peacetime, but was a monumental task in the midst of a great global war. Yet, ultimate success in the Pacific rested on this crucial, if somewhat strained, partnership and its accomplishments.

Personal Memoirs: Ulysses S. Grant

Ulysses S. Grant // 1885; Reprint, New York: Modern Library, 1999

This classic and honest account by one of America's greatest generals is among the finest military commander autobiographies ever written. It offers valuable insights into leadership and command that apply to all levels and in all times. The personal strength and strategic insight Grant demonstrated under almost unimaginable stress during critical junctures of America's bloodiest war makes him a fascinating case study of the "epitomized" Soldier.

Refighting the Last War: Command and Crisis in Korea, 1950–1953

D. Clayton James with Anne Sharp Wells // New York: Free Press, 1993

This readable study diverges from the usual chronological narrative of the Korean War. Instead, it devotes individual chapters to assessing key American senior leaders and their important command decisions. Author D. Clayton James, the foremost authority on General Douglas MacArthur, teamed with his long-time research assistant to produce a work that will give the reader insight into the role of personalities during the war as well as the complexities of some of the decisions with which the leaders wrestled.





Retribution: The Battle for Japan, 1944–45

Max Hastings // New York: Knopf, 2008

This is a sweeping account of the closing years of World War II in the Pacific, when the fate of Japan was largely sealed, yet massive armed forces continued to fight across the region, inflicting horrific casualties. How and why the killing proceeded and what it meant to people on all sides caught in the war's fury makes a compelling and illustrative story of the sheer violence of war and the ways that rational military planning can lead to uncontrollable destruction. Hastings creates a riveting portrayal of combat largely overlooked until now that serves as both a warning and a lesson for operational and strategic leaders.

Supplying War: Logistics from Wallenstein to Patton

Martin van Creveld // New York: Cambridge University Press, 1977

Surveying four centuries of military history, the noted historian Martin van Creveld clearly points out the reasons “amateurs study tactics; professionals study logistics.” Most battlefield results would not have been possible without the careful organization and allocation of logistical resources. Leaders who fail to consider logistics in all of their plans and operations do so at their peril.

The Unforgiving Minute: A Soldier's Education

Craig M. Mullaney // New York: Penguin, 2009

U.S. Army Capt. Craig Mullaney recounts the hard lessons that only war can teach while fighting al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. This is a portrait of a junior officer grappling with the weight of war and coming to terms with what it means to lead others in combat.



Washington's Crossing

David Hackett Fischer // New York: Oxford University Press, 2006

This meticulously researched and superbly written study of military operations and leadership recounts a time during the Revolutionary War when America nearly lost, but then saved, its recently declared independence. The title alludes not just to General George Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware River in December 1776, but also to his maturation as a leader and to the Continental Army's transformation into a competent military force. In analyzing the 1776 campaign, the author reflects on the development of a uniquely American way of war and the values that continue to guide our Army.

Westmoreland's War: Reassessing American Strategy in Vietnam

Gregory A. Daddis // New York: Oxford University Press, 2014

A half century after the United States committed ground combat troops to Vietnam, Americans still have a lot to learn—or unlearn—about the nation's first war that it lost. In this stimulating reappraisal of the conflict, Daddis argues that America's failure owed less to the much maligned "strategy of attrition" than to broader flaws in national policy, to include the belief that America could transform South Vietnam. In taking a fresh look at U.S. strategy during the Vietnam War, this book enhances our understanding both of the war itself and of the challenges that continue to face Soldiers and policy makers when intervening in the internal conflicts of foreign countries.



THE ARMY PROFESSION

19 Stars: A Study in Military Character and Leadership

Edgar F. Puryear Jr. // Novato, Calif.: Presidio Press, 2003

This valuable book examines the lives and careers of Generals Dwight D. Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur, George C. Marshall, and George S. Patton through their own eyes as well as the recollections of hundreds of others who worked with and knew them personally. This is a great study for up-and-coming officers to better understand the fundamentals of leadership, preparation, and the need for luck.

The Echo of Battle: The Army's Way of War

Brian McAllister Linn // Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007

Linn argues that the Army since its early years has had three enduring and often antagonistic intellectual traditions—that is, three different ways of war—reflecting assumptions and concepts that have remained remarkably consistent. He surveys the assumptions and errors of each tradition throughout the Army's history, noting in each the tendency to discourage critical thinking and thereby to enforce complacency. The result has been an Army often ill-prepared for the wars it was called on to fight.

The GAME: Unraveling a Military Sex Scandal

Robert D. Shadley // Edina, Minn.: Beaver's Pond Press, 2013

In this book, a retired Army major general writes about a scandal in which a number of Army drill instructors colluded and competed to sexually assault female trainees. This gross violation of Army ethics and values was uncovered in 1996 at the Aberdeen Proving Ground—the post where the author commanded the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School.

Grey Eminence: Fox Conner and the Art of Mentorship

Edward Cox // Stillwater, Okla.: New Forums Press, 2011

Because Fox Conner's name was synonymous with mentorship, he was nicknamed the "Grey Eminence" within the Army. His influence and mentorship helped shape the careers of George S. Patton, George C. Marshall, and, most notably, President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Fox Conner's four-step model for developing strategic leaders still holds true today. First, be a master of your craft. Second, recognize and recruit talented subordinates. Third, encourage and challenge protégés to develop their strengths and overcome their weaknesses. Fourth, do not be afraid to break the rules of the organization to do it.



The Invisible Wounds of War: Coming Home from Iraq and Afghanistan

Marguerite Guzmán Bouvard // Amherst, N.Y.: Prometheus, 2012

Wartime experiences do not simply go away when a Soldier returns home. The demands of the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been particularly high because the small size of the Army required many Soldiers to go on multiple deployments, which caused them and their families greater stress and damage. Through interviews with many veterans and their loved ones, the author examines the causes of post-traumatic stress disorder and addresses the sometimes lamentable care veterans have received at home.

Kevlar Legions: The Transformation of the U.S. Army, 1989–2005

John Sloan Brown // Washington, D.C.: U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2011

Former Chief of Military History Brig. Gen. John S. Brown brings his formidable analytical skills to bear in a detailed study of how the senior Army leadership formulated, managed, and executed a multiyear transformational effort after the end of the Cold War. A consistent vision from the senior leadership allowed the Army to cope with the changed international environment after the collapse of the Soviet Union, with high operational tempo contingency operations, and with the opening salvos of the Global War on Terrorism and still craft an Army that is the premier ground force in the world today.

Leading Change

John P. Kotter // Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 1996

In this classic book on leadership, Kotter describes a proven eight-step change process: establishing a sense of urgency, creating the guiding coalition, developing a vision and strategy, communicating the change vision, empowering others to act, generating short-term wins, consolidating gains and producing even more change, and institutionalizing new approaches in the future. Leaders across the Army can benefit from an examination of Kotter's methodology.

Lincoln and His Generals

T. Harry Williams // New York: Vintage Books, 2011

First published in 1952, *Lincoln and His Generals* remains one of the definitive accounts of President Abraham Lincoln's wartime leadership. In it, Williams dramatizes Lincoln's long and frustrating search for an effective leader of the Union Army and traces his transformation from a politician with little military knowledge into a master strategist. Explored in-depth are Lincoln's often fraught relationships with generals such as George B. McClellan, John Pope, Ambrose E. Burnside, Joseph Hooker, John C. Fremont, and of course, Ulysses S. Grant.

A Message to Garcia

Elbert Hubbard // Lexington, Ky.: Seven Treasures Publications, 2009

This classic essay from 1899, based on the true story of Lt. Andrew Rowan, is a notable testament of initiative and responsibility. It provides commonsense advice on the importance of personal responsibility, loyalty, hard work, and enterprise.

On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society

Dave Grossman // Rev. ed.; New York: Back Bay Books, 2009

The book investigates the psychology of killing in combat and stresses that human beings have a powerful, innate resistance to the taking of life. The author examines the techniques developed by the military to overcome that aversion during the Vietnam War, revealing how an American Soldier was more lethal during this conflict than at any other time in history.



Once an Eagle

Anton Myrer // New York: Harper Perennial, 2013

A historical novel, *Once an Eagle* traces the career of a fictitious Soldier from World War I to Vietnam. The book portrays the confusion of combat, the bonds that form between fighting men, the tensions between line and staff officers, and the heavy responsibility of command. This work was first published in 1968 and is great for young leaders contemplating a career in the profession of arms and looking for a deeper understanding of Army culture.

Partners in Command: George Marshall and Dwight Eisenhower in War and Peace

Mark Perry // New York: Penguin, 2007

This book is a balanced biographical view of the relationship between Generals George C. Marshall and Dwight D. Eisenhower. It provides an illustrative glimpse at the connection between the two men as they developed a grand alliance and forged the strategies that led to victory in Europe in World War II. It is a good read for strategic leaders who wish to better understand the complexities of coalition, joint, and civil-military relations.



STRATEGY AND THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

The Age of the Unthinkable: Why the New World Disorder Constantly Surprises Us and What We Can Do About It

Joshua Cooper Ramo // New York: Back Bay Books, 2010

This book challenges conventional assumptions, world views, and thinking in an increasingly complex world. The author proposes controversial ways of considering global issues, such as studying why Hezbollah is the most efficiently run Islamic militant group. Ramo uses economics, history, complexity theory, and network science to describe an ambiguous reality that has many innovative possibilities.

The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World

Niall Ferguson // New York: Penguin, 2008

Economic historian Niall Ferguson provides a historical narrative on the ascent of money and how it has both contributed to the expansion of the global market place and caused conflict. This is a cautionary tale and an important read for those who want to understand how global fiscal and economic crises could impact our defense strategy and defense force structure.

A Choice of Enemies: America Confronts the Middle East

Lawrence Freedman // New York: PublicAffairs, 2008

A leading professor from the United Kingdom provides an objective study of U.S. engagements in the Middle East. This volume looks at U.S. strategies from President Jimmy Carter to President George W. Bush, evaluating the evolution of U.S. policy toward the region and offering thoughtful analysis of how and why the United States has confronted regional issues with global impact during five presidencies.

The Cleanest Race: How North Koreans See Themselves—And Why It Matters

B. R. Myers // New York: Melville House, 2010

In this candid and compelling work, B. R. Myers provides an incisive and important interpretation of North Korea's regime. He explains how a race-centric ideology operates in P'yongyang to inform regime decision making that requires successive provocations on the Korean peninsula. As American foreign policy turns to the Asia-Pacific, U.S. forces in Korea are at the center of an increasingly dangerous confrontation, now including the prospect of weapons of mass destruction. Myers' book provides necessary context for Army leaders to better comprehend this potential adversary.



The Cold War: A New History

John Lewis Gaddis // New York: Penguin, 2005

Preeminent historian John Lewis Gaddis distills a lifetime of scholarship in this penetrating history of the Cold War, a long contest that shaped the affairs of all the world's nations for half of the twentieth century by pitting great powers against each other around the globe. This critical period challenged U.S. foreign policy by demanding leaders to devise new strategies to accommodate all forms of national power, including the potential use of nuclear weapons. How American foreign policy evolved and how the Army changed its doctrine and organization to meet the changing threats, including hot wars in Korea and Vietnam, are central to the story and applicable to the development of military thinking today.

Cybersecurity and Cyberwar: What Everyone Needs to Know

P. W. Singer and Allan Friedman // New York: Oxford University Press, 2014

This is a fascinating and well-written examination of the technology that supports our society and much of the world. The authors discuss how cyberspace and security work, how they affect us, and what every citizen, and especially every Soldier, should know.

Deadly Arsenals: Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Threats

Joseph Cirincione, Jon B. Wolfsthal, Miriam Rajkumar // 2d Ed.; New York: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2005

This volume provides an informative assessment of global nuclear, biological, and chemical arsenals and the risks associated with their potential proliferation and employment. Presented in clear terms, the technical information about the growing dangers of weapons of mass destruction is timely and compelling. Future war will likely involve increased use of these terrible weapons, a subject deserving much more attention from Soldiers and policy makers alike.

Descent into Chaos: The United States and the Failure of Nation Building in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia

Ahmed Rashid // New York: Viking Penguin, 2008

Rashid, a Pakistani writer, describes how the war against Islamic extremism was being lost in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and central Asia. He examines the region and the corridors of power in Washington and Europe to see how the promised nation building in these countries was progressing. His conclusions are devastating: an unstable and nuclear-armed Pakistan, a renewed al-Qaeda profiting from a booming opium trade, and a Taliban resurgence and reconquest. He argues that failing states pose a grave threat to global security.

The End of Power: From Boardrooms to Battlefields and Churches to States, Why Being in Charge Isn't What It Used to Be

Moisés Naím // New York: Basic Books, 2013

This book is an intriguing and provocative analysis of power as it is wielded by key institutions around the globe, whether government, military, religion, or business, and how these bastions of authority are now being tested. The author identifies a three-way revolution of “more, mobility, and mentality” to demonstrate how changes in population, wealth, migration, and information are fundamentally challenging traditional hierarchies and stirring ferment in societies around the world. The security implications are tremendous, and Soldiers who will operate in such a mutating environment must consider how their roles must change as well.

The Fate of Africa: A History of the Continent Since Independence

Martin Meredith // Rev. ed.; New York: PublicAffairs, 2011

This classic history has been revised to incorporate recent developments such as Darfur, Sudan; Robert Mugabe's longevity; developmental aid; the influence of China; and the Arab Spring in North Africa. Africa is remarkably diverse, complex, and challenging to understand, and even more difficult to influence. To date, the potential for the peoples and states of the continent to take their rightful place on the world's stage has not been met. This will likely change in the coming decades. The implications for U.S. policy are significant.

Flawed by Design: The Evolution of the CIA, JCS, and NSC

Amy B. Zegart // Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1999

Zegart looks at the interagency process and challenges the traditional opinion that the key national security institutions (the Central Intelligence Agency, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and National Security Council) operate as the National Security Act of 1947 intended. The reality has been that politics and bureaucratic and budgetary turf wars effectively impair the original purpose of these organizations and have caused systematic failures. However, proposals for reform of the entire interagency process must be carefully considered. This is an important read for those who wish to learn how key institutions were intended to work and how they actually work today in an era of increasing uncertainty.

Forgotten Continent: The Battle for Latin America's Soul

Michael Reid // New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2009

Reid argues that Latin Americans' efforts to build more equitable and more prosperous societies make that region one of the most dynamic places in the world. Today's leaders are attempting to lay the foundations for faster economic growth while addressing the region's seemingly intractable problems of poverty, inequality, and social injustice. Failure will not only increase the flow of drugs and illegal immigrants, but also will jeopardize the stability of a region rich in oil and other strategic commodities and threaten some of the world's most majestic natural environments. The study provides a vivid, current, and informed account of a dynamic continent and its struggle to compete in a globalized world.



Knowing the Enemy: Jihadist Ideology and the War on Terror

Mary Habeck // New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2007

In this primer on a small splinter group of Islam, Habeck traces current jihadism from an early-fourteenth-century scholar and the eighteenth-century founder of the harshly restrictive Islam (predominantly in Saudi Arabia) to four twentieth-century figures who inspired a host of radical reactionary organizations, including Hamas and al-Qaeda. By revealing the origins of jihadism, she contributes with admirable clarity an important volume for Army leaders to understand what drives people to attack democracies.

Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age

Peter Paret, ed. // Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986

This is a deeply significant anthology on the evolution of strategic thought. Moving from Machiavelli to the present in twenty-eight insightful essays, the authors examine such topics as the role of doctrine, the genius of Napoleon, the limits of airpower, and nuclear strategy. A primer for all military leaders who must think strategically on a variety of issues, *Makers of Modern Strategy* summarizes the classic military thinkers, underlining the enduring lessons that remain relevant today.



Monsoon: The Indian Ocean and the Future of American Power

Robert D. Kaplan // New York: Random House, 2010

Kaplan provides a sweeping examination of the countries that compose “Monsoon Asia”—China, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Burma, Oman, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Tanzania. This book is a must-read for Army professionals, especially those whose focus has been weighted toward the challenges in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past decade. As the United States pivots strategically to the Pacific, Kaplan’s unique perspective on the implications of rising powers, the shifting global balance, and the potential contingencies that might arise is timely and important.

The Net Delusion: The Dark Side of Internet Freedom

Evgeny Morozov // New York: PublicAffairs, 2011

Morozov argues against the conventional wisdom that the Internet and social media will automatically promote and expand freedom around the world. While social networking may enable popular mobilization, authoritarian regimes can use the same tools to suppress free speech, monitor their opposition, and disseminate propaganda. The author asserts that while “digital diplomacy” and “Internet freedom” sound good rhetorically, foreign policy based on these concepts may actually hinder the promotion of democracy, cause dictators to become more repressive, and harm the reform efforts of dissidents.

On China

Henry A. Kissinger // New York: Penguin, 2011

This sweeping and insightful history of modern China by a distinguished international scholar, diplomat, and statesman provides a fascinating historical view of China and its relations with its neighbors and the United States over the last forty years. It is useful for readers to understand the world’s second largest economy and the rising global player, which will influence U.S. national and economic security for decades to come.

Out of the Mountains: The Coming Age of the Urban Guerrilla

David Kilcullen // New York: Oxford University Press, 2013

This new book takes a fresh look at what could be the Army’s most difficult combat environment—large urban centers. The sprawling cities of both the developing and developed worlds pose increasing and complex security challenges that governments are struggling to address. At the same time, communications technologies are assisting those who seek to commit violence amid these spaces that are weakly governed. The result is a formidable range of threats that the Army must better understand and prepare to meet in the coming years.

The Quest: Energy, Security, and the Remaking of the Modern World

Daniel Yergin // New York: Penguin, 2011

Yergin, widely recognized as an authoritative voice on the geopolitics of energy and resource competition, has produced his most comprehensive and balanced work. This volume not only explains the deeper history of energy production and the dramatic changes of recent years, but also provides valuable policy advice for minimizing the potential for catastrophic disruptions in energy security and the conflicts this could spawn.

The Utility of Force: The Art of War in the Modern World

Rupert Smith // New York: Knopf, 2007

Drawing on his experience as a commander during the Persian Gulf war and in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Northern Ireland, Smith, a retired British general, gives a probing analysis of modern war and questions why we try to use military force to solve our political problems. And why, when our forces win military battles, we still fail to resolve the problems. He demonstrates that today's conflicts must be understood as intertwined political and military events.

Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century

P. W. Singer // New York: Penguin, 2009

P. W. Singer explores robotic warfare as a revolution in military affairs on a par with the atom bomb or gunpowder. The author discusses the impact of new military technology on the ways war is fought and the influence robots will have on the future battlefield, as well as the ramifications robotic warfare will have on ethics, law, politics, and economics.

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