Strategic Studies Core Readings

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Read not to contradict, and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider. Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested: that is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read but not curiously; and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention...

Francis Bacon,"Of Studies"

The following list of one hundred books cannot be definitive: it reflects my idiosyncratic interests, prejudices, and assumptions. Still, the Ph.D. student who reads these books will have a good background in the field, and will certainly be ready for the general exam in strategic studies. Some substitutions (and, certainly, additions) may be made, although they should be cleared with me. Bear in mind that there are substantial gaps that remain in this list; furthermore, it is written with the expectation that students will read up on current issues in the usual military journals, popular books, web logs and the like.

MA students should read at least the roughly two dozen books marked with an asterisk (*)

The Origins of War and Overview
*Geoffrey Blainey, The Causes of War
Lawrence H. Keeley, War before Civilization
Theodore Ropp, War in the Modern World
Quincy Wright, A Study of War (2 volumes)

Strategic Thought
Bernard Brodie, War and Politics
*Carl von Clausewitz, On War, Michael Howard and Peter Paret, eds.
Azar Gat, The Origins of Military Thought
_____, The Development of Military Thought
Edward Luttwak, Strategy: the Logic of War and Peace

*Peter Paret, ed. Makers of Modern Strategy.
*Thomas Schelling, Arms and Influence
*Sun Tzu, The Art of War
**Military Institutions and Civil Military Relations**

Eliot A. Cohen, *Supreme Command*

Gordon Craig, *The Politics of the Prussian Army, 1640-1945*

Samuel Finer, *The Man on Horseback*

Charles de Gaulle, *Edge of the Sword*

*Samuel P. Huntington, *The Soldier and the State*


Morris Janowitz, *The Professional Soldier*

Eric Larrabee, *Commander in Chief: Franklin Delano Roosevelt: His Lieutenants, and their War.*

Barry Posen, *The Sources of Military Doctrine*

Stephen P. Rosen, *Winning the Next War*

**Military Technology**

Martin van Creveld, *Technology and War.*

J.F.C. Fuller, *Armament and History*


*Robert L. O’Connell, *Of Arms and Men*

**Combat**

*J. Glenn Gray, *The Warriors*


Wayne Hughes, *Fleet Tactics: Theory and Practice*

*John Keegan, *The Face of Battle*

Ronald H. Spector, *At War At Sea*

*Ernest Swinton, *The Defense of Duffers’ Drift*

Timothy Travers, *The Killing Ground*

**Ancient and Medieval**

Philippe Contamine, *War in the Middle Ages.*

Hans Delbrück, *History of the Art of War in the Framework of Political History* (Vol I)

Peter Green, *Alexander of Macedon.*

Victor Davis Hanson, *Western Way of War: Infantry Battle in Classical Greece*

Edward N. Luttwak, *The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire*

Polybius, *The Histories of Polybius*

*Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*

**Early Modern**

J. R. Hale, *War and Society in Renaissance Europe*

Geoffrey Parker, *The Military Revolution*

**Modern**

Geoffrey Best, *War and Society in Revolutionary Europe, 1770-1870.*

Tami Davis Biddle, *Rhetoric and Reality in Air Warfare*
David Chandler, *The Campaigns of Napoleon*.
Mark Clodfelter, *The Limits of Air Power*
Christopher Duffy, *The Military Experience of the Age of Reason*
*Michael Howard, War in European History*
________, *The Franco-Prussian War*.
Paul M. Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery*.
Piers Mackesy, *The War for America* (1776-1783)
*Allan Millett and Williamson Murray, Military Effectiveness* (3 volumes)
Michael Oren, *The Six Day War*
David B. Ralston, *Importing the European Army*
Dennis E. Showalter, *Railroads and Rifles*
Russell Weigley, *The Age of Battles*
Gerhard Weinberg, *A World at Arms*

**American Military History**
George Baer, *One Hundred Years of Sea Power: The U.S. Navy, 1890-1990*
John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*
Kent Roberts Greenfield, *American Strategy in World War II*
D. Clayton James with Anne Sharp Wells, *Refighting the Last War: Command and Crisis in Korea 1950-1953.*
Douglas Edward Leach, *Arms for Empire*
James McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*
Walter Millis, *Arms and Men: A Study of American Military History*
Samuel Eliot Morison, *Strategy and Compromise*
Russell Weigley, *The American Way of War*

**Irregular Warfare**
*Ian Beckett, Modern Insurgency and Counterinsurgency*
C. E. Callwell, *Small Wars*
Bernard B. Fall, *Street Without Joy*
Alistair Horne, *A Savage War of Peace*
Robert Komer, *Bureaucracy Does its Thing*
Andrew Krepinevich, *The Army and Vietnam*
Walter Laqueur, *Terrorism*
Robert Thompson, *Defeating Communist Insurgency*
Charles Townshend, *Britain’s Civil Wars: Counterinsurgency in the Twentieth Century*

**Intelligence**
R.V. Jones, *The Wizard War*
Ernest May, *Knowing One’s Enemies*
*Abram Shulsky, Silent Warfare*
Roberta Wohlstetter, *Pearl Harbor: Warning and Decision*
Logistics
*Martin Van Creveld, *Supplying War
Henry E. Eccles, *Logistics in the National Defense

Nuclear Strategy & Arms Control
*Lawrence Freedman, *The Evolution of Nuclear Strategy

The Law of War and Military Ethics
*W. Michael Reisman and Chris T. Antoniou, *The Laws of War
*Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars

Literature
*Paul Fussell, *The Great War and Modern Memory
Homer, *The Iliad
Nicholas Monserrat, *The Cruel Sea
*Oxford Book of War Poetry
James Salter, *The Hunters
Michael Shaara, *The Killer Angels
*Leo Tolstoy, *War and Peace

Memoirs
George McDonald Fraser, *Quartered Safe Out Here
T.E. Lawrence, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom
William Slim, *Defeat Into Victory
Guy Sajer, *The Forgotten Soldier
Sandy Woodward, *One Hundred Days