



The Army Professional Reading List



The Centre for Historical Analysis and Conflict Research (CHACR)

The CHACR intro to The Army Professional Reading List

The Centre for Historical Analysis and Conflict Research (CHACR) is, amongst other things, charged by the Chief of the General Staff (CGS) with 're-vitalising the conceptual component of fighting power, particularly within the Army's officer corps'. It is every officer and soldiers' job to learn about their profession; this reading list is intended to assist with that endeavour. The list that follows is quite daunting, if you see it as a compulsory catalogue of things that you must read. But it isn't that. It is merely a collection of titles, grouped into categories, that you should find useful to read, refer to, or use as references as you see fit and as your career develops. That said, if you consider yourself to be a 'professional soldier' then it is our view that there are a few books and publications that you really should have read.

Your start point ought to be *The Army Doctrine Primer*, *ADP Operations* and the *British Army Review*. These should be publications with which you are comfortably familiar: they provide the underpinning philosophy of your profession and the pointers around its supporting doctrine, coupled with the on-going professional discussion of the art and science of soldiering. A working knowledge of them should not be considered optional.

More widely we most strongly urge that you must read the following titles as your basic professional building-blocks:

To get an understanding of the context in which you conduct your business:

Michael Howard, *Clausewitz: A Very Short Introduction*

B.H. Liddell Hart, *Strategy*

Niccolo Machiavelli (George Bull ed), *The Prince*

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*

To get an understanding of the unchanging nature of being a British soldier:

John Keegan, *The Face of Battle*

George MacDonald Fraser, *Quartered Safe Out Here*

Richard Holmes, *Soldiers*

We commend the list to you, however we also recognise that there are many more books that could go on to this list, and each individual will have their own recommendations. We have highlighted a small number of books in each section; we consider these to be both relatively easy to read and particularly good in their area. The list will be updated from time to time and the CHACR will endeavour to recommend texts that address contemporary issues. You are welcome to send a review of any of the books, either to the CHACR (ArmyStrat-CHACR-0Mailbox@mod.uk) or to the British Army Review (armyreview@armymail.mod.uk) for publication.

The Army Professional Reading List

Philosophy and Strategy

Charles Ardant du Picq, *Battle Studies: Ancient and Modern Battle*
Available for free on the internet (Amazon.com)

Clausewitz, *On War*

Michael Howard, *Clausewitz: A Very Short Introduction* (1983)

Robert Coram, *Boyd: The Fighter Pilot Who Changed the Art of War* (2004)

JFC Fuller, *The Conduct of War: A Study of the Impact of the French, Industrial, and Russian Revolutions on War and Its Conduct* (1961)

B.H. Liddell Hart, *Strategy* (1957)

Peter Paret, *Clausewitz and the State: The Man, His Theories, and His Times* (1976)

Rupert Smith, *The Utility of Force: The Art of War in the Modern World* (2005)

Donald Stoker, *Clausewitz: His Life and Work* (2014)

Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*

Niccolo Machiavelli (George Bull ed), *The Prince*, (2003)

McMaster, *Dereliction of Duty: Johnson, McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies that Led to Vietnam*, (1997)

Aleksandr Svechin (Kent Lee, ed), *Strategy*, (1992)

Lord Alanbrooke, *War Diaries, 1939-1945* (2001)

Eliot Cohen, *Supreme Command: Soldiers, Statesmen, and Leadership in Wartime* (2002)

Gregory Daddis, *Westmoreland's War: Reassessing American Strategy in Vietnam* (2014)

Robert Doughty, *Seeds of Disaster* (1985)

Lawrence Freedman, *Strategy: A History* (2014)

Collin Gray, *Fighting Talk* (2007)

Jonathan Schneer, *Ministers at War: Winston Churchill and His War Cabinet* (2015)

Henry Kissinger, *World Order: Reflections on the Character of Nations and the Course of History*, (2014)

Hew Strachan, *The Direction of War: Contemporary Strategy in Historical Perspective*, (2013)

The Strategy Bridge. (website)
www.thestrategybridge.com

Kings of War (Kings College)
www.kingsofwar.org.uk

The US Army War College Quarterly: Parameters (available free on-line)
www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/Parameters

Tactics and Operational Art

Stephen Biddle, *Military Power: Explaining Victory and Defeat in Modern Battle* (2006)

Daniel P. Bolger, *The Battle for Hunger Hill: The 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment at the Joint Readiness Training Center* (1997)

David Fraser, *And We Shall Shock Them: British Army in the Second World War* (1999)

John A. Nagl, *Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife: Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam* (2004)

Julian Thompson, *Lifeblood of War: Logistics in Armed Conflict* (1998)

Martin van Creveld, *Supplying War: Logistics from Wallenstein to Patton* (1977)

British Army Review.

Submissions are always encouraged! Submit through: armyreview@armymail.mod.uk

Military Review (US Army publication, available free on-line)
www.militaryreview.army.mil

War at Sea, in the Air, and in the Cyber Domain

Andrew Gordon, *The Rules of the Game: Jutland and British Naval Command* (1964)

Colin Gray, *Airpower for Strategic Effect* (2012)

Nicholas A. Lambert, *Sir John Fisher's Naval Revolution* (1999)

Phillip S. Meilinger, *Airpower: Myths and Facts* (2003)

Richard Overy, *The Bombing War: Europe 1939-1945* (2013)

P.W. Singer and Allan Friedman, *Cyber security and Cyber war: What Everyone Needs to Know* (2014)

P.W. Singer, *Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century* (2009)

Jon Tetsuro Sumida, *In Defence of Naval Supremacy: Finance, Technology, and British Naval Policy, 1889-1914* (1989)

Kim Zetter, *Countdown to Zero Day: Stuxnet and the Launch of the World's First Digital Weapon* (2014)

Insights and Perspectives

Jonathan Bailey, *et al*, *British Generals in Blair's Wars* (2013)

Sherard Cowper-Coles, *Cables from Kabul: The Inside Story of the West's Afghanistan Campaign* (2011)

Christopher Elliott, *High Command* (2015)

Spencer Fitz-Gibbon, *Not Mentioned in Despatches: The History and Mythology of the Battle of Goose Green* (1995)

Frank Ledwidge, *Losing Small Wars: British Military Failure in Iraq and Afghanistan* (2012)

Rory Stewart, *Occupational Hazards: My Time Governing in Iraq* (2006)

Hilary Synnott, *Bad Days in Basra: My Time as Britain's Man in Southern Iraq* (2008)

Mark Urban, *The Edge: Is the Military Dominance of the West Coming to an End?* (2015)

The Human Element in War

Martin Lindsay, *So Few Got Through*, (2000 (reprint))

George MacDonald Fraser, *Quartered Safe Out Here: A Harrowing Tale of World War II* (1993)

Humphrey Cobb, *Paths of Glory* (1935)

George Coppard, *With a Machine Gun to Cambrai: The Tale of a Young Tommy in Kitchener's Army, 1914-1918* (1969)

C.S. Forester, *The General* (1936)

Marguerite Guzmán Bouvard, *The Invisible Wounds of War: Coming Home from Iraq and Afghanistan* (2012)

Max Hastings, *Warriors: Portraits from the Battlefield* (2006)

Richard Holmes, *Acts of War: The Behaviour of Men in Battle* (1986)

Sebastian Junger, *War* (2010)

John Keegan, *The Face of Battle: A Study of Agincourt, Waterloo, and the Somme* (2014)

John Lynn, *Battle: A History of Combat and Culture* (2004)

Jean Larteguy, *The Centurions* (1962)

John Masters, *The Field Marshal's Memoirs* (1975)

Alan Moorehead, *The Desert War: The Classic Trilogy on the North African Campaign, 1904-1943* (1945)

George Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia* (1938)

Nancy Sherman, *Afterwar: Healing the Moral Wounds of our Soldiers* (2015)

Emile Simpson, *War from the Ground Up: Twenty-First Century Combat as Politics* (2012)

Richard Holmes, *Soldiers: Army Lives and Loyalties from Redcoats to Dusty Warriors*, (2011)

Patrick Hennessey, *The Junior Officers' Reading Club: Killing Time and Fighting Wars*, (2009)

Andrew MacKay, Lee Roland, Steve Tatham, *Behavioural Conflict: Why Understanding People and Their Motives Will Prove Decisive in Future Conflict*, (2011)

Command and Leadership

John Keegan, *The Mask of Command* (1987)

Gary Klein, *Sources of Power: How People Make Decisions* (1999)

Daniel Kahneman, *Thinking, Fast and Slow* (2011)

Andrew Roberts, *Napoleon: A Life* (2014)

Field Marshal Sir William Slim, *Defeat into Victory* (1961)

General Sir Archibald Wavell, *Generals and Generalship*, (1941)

Norman Dixon, *On The Psychology of Military Incompetence*, (1994)

Harvard Business Review (periodical)

Professional Ethics

Jim Frederick, *Black Hearts: One Platoon's Descent into Madness in Iraq's Triangle of Death* (2011)

Stephen Gerras and Leonard Wong, *Lying to Ourselves: Dishonesty in the Army Profession* (2015)
[free on-line]

www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdf/PUB1250.pdf

Michael L. Gross, *Moral Dilemmas of Modern War: Torture, Assassination, and Blackmail in an Age of Asymmetric Conflict* (2009)

Robert Shadley, *The GAME: Unravelling a Military Sex Scandal* (2013)

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars* rev. ed. (2006)

Innovation and Adaptation

Chip and Dan Heath, *Switch: How to Change Things When Change is Hard* (2010)

David Johnson, *Fast Tanks and Heavy Bombers: Innovation in the U.S. Army, 1917-1945* (2003)

Fred Kaplan, *The Insurgents: David Petraeus and the Plot to Change the American Way of War* (2013)

MacGregor Knox and Williamson Murray, eds, *The Dynamics of Military Revolution, 1300-2050* (2001)

Tim Harford, *Adapt: Why Success Always Starts With Failure* (2012)

Timothy Lupfer, *The Dynamics of Doctrine: The Changes in German Tactical Doctrine During the First World War* (1984) [free on-line]

www.usacac.army.mil/cac2/cgsc/carl/download/csipubs/lupfer.pdf

Barry Posen, *The Sources of Military Doctrine: France, Britain, and Germany Between the World Wars* (1986)

TED Radio Hour (podcast)

www.ted.com/talks

British Army heritage

Peter Hart, *Fire and Movement: The British Expeditionary Force and the Campaign of 1914* (2014)

Richard Holmes, *Tommy: The British Soldier on the Western Front* (2004)

Lawrence James, *Warrior Race: A History of the British at War* (2003)

Charles Kirke, *Red Coat, Green Machine: Continuity and Change in the British Army 1700 to 2000* (2011)

Ben Kite, *Stout Hearts: The British and Canadians in Normandy, 1944* (2014)

John Masters, *Bugles and a Tiger: My Life in the Gurkhas* (1965)

John Masters, *The Road Past Mandalay* (1961)

The Context

Hassan Abbas, *The Taliban Revival: Violence and Extremism on the Pakistan-Afghanistan Frontier* (2014)

Paddy Ashdown, *Swords and Ploughshares: Bringing Peace to the 21st Century* (2007)

Philip Bobbitt, *Terror and Consent: The Wars for the Twenty-first Century* (2009)

Rajiv Chandrasekaran, *Imperial Life in the Emerald City: Inside Baghdad's Green Zone* (2006)

Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It* (2007)

James E. Cronin, *Global Rules: America, Britain, and a Disordered World* (2014)

Mark Duffield, *Global Governance and the New Wars: The Merging of Development and Security* (2001)

William Easterly, *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest have Done So Much Ill and so Little Good* (2006)

Niall Ferguson, *The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World* (2008)

Colin Gray, *Another Bloody Century: Future Warfare* (2005)

Samuel A. Greene, *Moscow in Movement: Power and Opposition in Putin's Russia* (2014)

Mary Habeck, *Knowing the Enemy: Jihadist Ideology and the War on Terror* (2007)

Glenn Hubbard and Tim Kane, *Balance: The Economics of Great Powers from Ancient Rome to Modern America* (2013)

Douglas Porch, *Counterinsurgency: Exposing the Myths of the New Way of War* (2013)

Moisés Naim, *The End of Power: From Boardrooms to Battlefields and Churches to States, Why Being in Charge Isn't What It Used to Be* (2013)

Mary Kaldor, *New and Old Wars: Organised Violence in a Global Era* (1999)

Robert D. Kaplan, *Soldiers of God* (2001)

David Keen, *Complex Emergencies* (2007).

David Kilcullen, *Out of the Mountains: The Coming Age of the Urban Guerrilla* (2013)

David Kilcullen, *The Accidental Guerrilla: Fighting Small Wars in the Midst of a Big One* (2009)

Henry Kissinger, *World Order* (2014)

Keith Lowe, *Savage Continent: Europe in the Aftermath of World War Two* (2012)

Paul D. Miller, *Armed State Building: Confronting State Failure, 1898-2012* (2013)

Joshua G. Ramo, *The Age of the Unthinkable: Why the New World Disorder Constantly Surprises Us and What We Can Do About It* (2009)

M. Shane Riza, *Killing Without Heart: Limits on Robotic Warfare in an Age of Persistent Conflict* (2013)

Gideon Rose, *How Wars End: Why We Always Fight the Last Battle – A History of American Intervention from World War I to Afghanistan* (2010)

Jacob N. Shapiro, *The Terrorist's Dilemma: Managing Violent Covert Organizations* (2013)

James Sherr, *Hard Diplomacy and Soft Coercion: Russia's Influence Abroad* (2013)

Bing West, *The Village* (2003)

Daniel Yergin, *The Quest: Energy, Security, and the Remaking of the Modern World* (2011)

Peter Zeihan, *The Accidental Superpower: The Next Generation of American Pre-eminence and the Coming Global Disorder* (2014)

Robert Cooper, *The Breaking of Nations*, (2003)

Eugene Rogan, *Arabs: A History*, (2nd Ed, 2012)

Abdel-Bari Atwan, *The Secret History of Al Qaeda*, (2008)

Niall Barr, *Yanks and Limeys*, (2015)

Foreign Affairs (periodical).

www.foreignaffairs.com

Radio 4, *Analysis* (podcast)

www.bbc.co.uk

The World (*Financial Times* blog)

www.ft.com

Center for Strategic and International Studies, *The Russian Military Forum*. (podcast)

www.csis.org