The appearance of a title and accompanying summary on this reading list do not imply or constitute an endorsement or an approval by the Director of any of the products, services or opinions of the authors. However, these books contain thought-provoking ideas and viewpoints relevant to leadership, decision-making, and professionalism. The Defense Intelligence Agency bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of the books referenced in this reading list.
Reading is at the heart of self-education. It enhances communication and expands our experiences, enriching our efforts at home, at work, and in the community. Together we pool our collective knowledge to better serve and defend the United States of America.

As a team, we can do remarkable things, and our efforts are stronger when we collaborate with our friends and allies. We can operate decisively as a unit and ensure our collective security and prosperity, but to do that we must recognize and appreciate our teammates’ perspectives.

Therefore, the 2019 Director’s Reading List is not simply a personal list of favorites—it is an aspiration. This is a collection of recommendations from our own officers, and features an entirely new section from our Five Eye partners.

I hope you gain new insight and perspectives from this diverse collection. And remember, you are always lending someone a helping hand when you recommend a good book.

**Lieutenant General Robert P. Ashley, Jr., USA**
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."

FREDERICK DOUGLASS
NATIONAL LEADER OF THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT

"Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence."

ABIGAIL ADAMS
2ND FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES

"Books, in all their variety, offer the human intellect the means whereby civilisation may be carried triumphantly forward."

WINSTON CHURCHILL
60TH & 62ND PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
"Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another."

NELSON MANDELA
1ST DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

"A capacity, and taste, for reading gives access to whatever has already been discovered by others."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
16TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
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LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
**01**

**Brief: Make a Bigger Impact by Saying Less**

*Joseph McCormack*

The only way to survive in business today is to be a lean communicator. Busy executives expect you to respect and manage their time more effectively than ever. You need to do the ground work to make your message tight and to the point. The average professional receives 304 emails per week and checks their smart phones 36 times an hour and 38 hours a week. This inattention has spread to every part of life. The average attention span has shrunk from 12 seconds in 2000 to eight in 2012. "Brief" will help you summarize lengthy information, tell a short story, harness the power of infographics and videos, and turn monologue presentations into controlled conversations.

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**02**

**Creativity, Inc.: Overcoming the Unseen Forces That Stand in the Way of True Inspiration**

*Ed Catmull with Amy Wallace*

“Creativity, Inc.” is a book for managers who want to lead their employees to new heights, a manual for anyone who strives for originality, and the first-ever, all-access trip into the nerve center of Pixar Animation—into the meetings, postmortems, and brain trust sessions where some of the most successful films in history are made. It is, at heart, a book about how to build a creative culture—but it is also, as Pixar co-founder and president Ed Catmull writes, “An expression of the ideas that I believe make the best in us possible.”

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**03**

**Extreme Ownership: How U.S. Navy SEALs Lead and Win**

*Jocko Willink and Leif Babin*

Combat, the most intense and dynamic environment imaginable, teaches the toughest leadership lessons, with absolutely everything at stake. As leaders of SEAL Team 3’s Task Unit Bruiser, the author’s mission was one many thought impossible: Help U.S. forces secure Ramadi, Iraq. In firsthand accounts of heroism, loss, and hard-won victories, they learned that leadership "at every level" is the most important factor in whether a team succeeds or fails. Detailing the principles that enable SEAL units to accomplish the most difficult combat missions, "Extreme Ownership" demonstrates how to apply them to any team or organization, in any leadership environment.
Facts and Fears: Hard Truths from a Life in Intelligence  
*James R. Clapper with Trey Brown*

When he stepped down in January 2017 as the fourth U.S. Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper had been President Obama’s senior intelligence advisor for six and a half years, which included such critical events as the discovery of Osama bin Laden, the leaks of Edward Snowden, the Benghazi attack, and Russia’s influence on the 2016 U.S. election. In "Facts and Fears," Clapper traces his career through his rise in ranks of the military, the history of several decades of national intelligence operations, the growing threat of cyberattacks, his relationships with presidents and Congress, and the truth about Russia’s role in the presidential election.

The Five Temptations of a CEO: A Leadership Fable  
*Patrick Lencioni*

This is the tale of a young CEO, who is facing his first annual board review, and knows he is failing, but doesn’t know why. Refreshingly original and utterly compelling, this razor-sharp novelette plus self-assessment serves as a timeless and potent reminder that success as a leader can come down to practicing a few simple behaviors—behaviors that are painfully difficult for each of us to master. Any executive can learn how to recognize the mistakes leaders can make and how to avoid them.

Get It On: What It Means to Lead the Way  
*Keni Thomas*

Decorated U.S. military veteran-turned-country musician, Keni Thomas gives a personal account of his heart-wrenching experiences during the Battle of Mogadishu to express a unique set of leadership lessons and inspired view of our greater purpose. “Get It On!” reminds readers, “That we, as individuals, do indeed matter, that we are anything but ordinary, fully capable of carrying out life-changing assignments at any level and in any situation. We can make a difference in this world.” Thomas also shares stories from the stage of the Grand Ole Opry to overseas concerts for active soldiers, always passionate about the battle that still shapes his thoughts on a daily basis and eager to encourage the absolute best in others.
The Happiness Advantage: The Seven Principles of Positive Psychology That Fuel Success and Performance at Work

Shawn Achor

Conventional wisdom holds that if we work hard we will be more successful, and if we are more successful then we’ll be happy. But recent discoveries in the field of positive psychology have shown this formula is actually backward: Happiness fuels success, not the other way around. In “The Happiness Advantage,” Shawn Achor, who spent over a decade living, researching, and lecturing at Harvard University, draws on his own research to fix this broken formula. Using stories and case studies, Achor explains how we can reprogram our brains to become more positive in order to gain a competitive edge at work.

The Heart and the Fist: The Education of a Humanitarian, the Making of a Navy SEAL

Eric Greitens

“The Heart and the Fist” shares one man’s story of extraordinary leadership and service as both a humanitarian and a warrior. In a life lived at the raw edges of the human experience, Eric Greitens has seen what can be accomplished when compassion and courage come together in meaningful service.

Leaders Eat Last: Why Some Teams Pull Together and Others Don’t

Simon Sinek

Simon Sinek is an optimist, a visionary thinker, and a leader of the cultural revolution of WHY. Determining a company’s why is crucial, but only the beginning. The next step is how to get people on board with your why? How do you inspire deep trust and commitment to the company and one another? He cites the Marine Corps for having found a way to build a culture in which men and women are willing to risk their lives because they know others would do the same for them. Drawing on powerful and inspiring stories, Sinek shows how to sustain an organization’s WHY, while continually adding people to the mix.
Leaders: Myth and Reality

General Stanley McChrystal (U.S. Army Retired), Jeff Eggers, Jason Mangone

General McChrystal served for 34 years in the U.S. Army, rising from a second lieutenant in the 82nd Airborne Division to a four-star general in command of all American and coalition forces in Afghanistan. During those years, he worked with countless leaders and pondered an ancient question: “What makes a leader great?” He came to realize that there is no simple answer. "Leaders: Myth and Reality" profiles 13 famous leaders from a wide range of eras and fields—from corporate CEOs to politicians and revolutionaries. He uses their stories to explore how leadership works in practice and to challenge the myths that complicate our thinking about this critical topic.

The Leader’s Bookshelf

ADM James Stavridis, (U.S. Navy Retired) and R. Manning Ancell

"The Leader’s Bookshelf" identifies the top 50 books that can help virtually anyone become a better leader. Each of the works—novels, memoirs, biographies, autobiographies, management publications—are summarized and the key leadership lessons extracted and presented. Whether individuals work their way through the entire list and read each book cover to cover, or read the summaries provided to determine which appeal to them most, "The Leader’s Bookshelf" will provide a roadmap to better leadership. Highlighting the value of reading in both a philosophical and a practical sense, "The Leader’s Bookshelf" provides sound advice on how to build an extensive library.

On Combat: The Psychology and Physiology of Deadly Conflict in War and in Peace

Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Grossman with Loren Christensen

"On Combat" looks at what happens to the human body under the stresses of deadly battle and discusses new research findings as to what measures warriors can take to prevent such debilitations. The authors reveal the nature of the warrior, brave men and women who train their minds and bodies to go to that place from which others flee. After examining the incredible impact of a few true warriors in battle, "On Combat" presents new and exciting research as to how to train the mind to become inoculated to stress, fear, and even pain.
Organizational Culture and Leadership
Edgar H. Schein with Peter Schein

Edgar Schein shows how to transform the abstract concept of culture into a practical tool, which managers and students can use to understand the dynamics of organizations and change. Organizational pioneer Schein updates his influential understanding of culture—what it is, how it is created, how it evolves, and how it can be changed. Focusing on today’s business realities, Schein draws on a wide range of contemporary research to redefine culture, offers new information on the topic of occupational cultures, and demonstrates the crucial role leaders play in successfully applying the principles of culture to achieve organizational goals.

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can’t Stop Talking
Susan Cain

At least one-third of the people we know are introverts. They are the ones who prefer listening to speaking; who innovate and create but dislike self-promotion; who favor working on their own over working in teams. "In Quiet," Susan Cain argues that we dramatically undervalue introverts and shows how much we lose in doing so. She charts the rise of the "extrovert ideal" throughout the 20th century and explores how deeply it has come to permeate our culture. She also introduces us to successful introverts from a witty, high-octane public speaker who recharges in solitude after his talks, to a record-breaking salesman who quietly taps into the power of questions.

Radical Inclusion: What the Post-9/11 World Should Have Taught Us about Leadership
Martin Dempsey and Ori Brafman

"Radical Inclusion" examines today’s leadership landscape and describes the change it demands of leaders. Martin Dempsey and Ori Brafman persuasively explain that today’s leaders are in competition for the trust and confidence of those they lead more than ever before. They assert that the nature of power is changing and should not be measured by degree of control alone. They offer principles for adaptation and bring them to life with examples, from business, academia, government, and the military. The principles discussed in "Radical Inclusion" are memorable and the book is full of engaging stories.
Striking Thoughts: Bruce Lee’s Wisdom for Daily Living  
*Bruce Lee*

Within the pages of “Striking Thoughts,” you will find the secrets of Bruce Lee’s amazing success—as an actor, martial artist, and inspiration to the world. “Striking Thoughts” covers 72 topics and 825 aphorisms—from spirituality to personal liberation and from family life to filmmaking—all of which Lee lived by. His ideas helped energize his life and career, and made it possible for him to live a happy and assured life, overcoming difficult obstacles with seeming ease. His ideas inspired his family, friends, students, and colleagues to achieve success in their own lives and this personal collection will help you in your journey too.

Sum It Up: 1,098 Victories, a Couple of Irrelevant Losses, and a Life in Perspective  
*Pat Summitt with Sally Jenkins*

Pat Summitt, the all-time winningest coach in NCAA basketball history and bestselling author of "Reach for the Summitt and Raise the Roof," tells, for the first time, her story of victory and resilience, as well as facing down her greatest challenge: early-onset Alzheimer’s disease.

Think Like a Freak  
*Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner*

With “Think Like a Freak,” Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner take us inside their thought process and teach us all to think a bit more productively, more creatively, more rationally—to think, that is, like a freak. Levitt and Dubner offer a blueprint for an entirely new way to solve problems, whether your interest lies in minor life hacks or major global reforms. As always, no topic is off-limits. They range from business to philanthropy to sports to politics, all with the goal of retraining your brain. Along the way, you’ll learn the secrets of a Japanese hot-dog-eating champion, the reason an Australian doctor swallowed a batch of dangerous bacteria, and why Nigerian e-mail scammers make a point of saying they’re from Nigeria.
**The Thinker’s Toolkit: 14 Powerful Techniques for Problem Solving**

*Morgan D. Jones*

“The Thinker’s Toolkit” is an invaluable resource for every professional—a unique collection of proven, practical methods for simplifying any problem and making faster, better decisions every time. Thanks to the computer and communications revolutions, business people today are inundated with more data than ever before. But making sense of the information and using it to make smart, profitable decisions has never been tougher. “The Thinker’s Toolkit” comes to the rescue. Morgan Jones explains how to replace seat-of-the-pants decision-making methods with 14 little-known, yet surprisingly powerful, techniques for solving problems of all kinds, creatively. Armed with this toolkit, anyone in business can start making better decisions today, with immediate benefits to the bottom line.

**The Trident: The Forging and Reforging of a Navy SEAL Leader**

*Jason Redman with John R. Bruning*

Decorated U.S. Navy SEAL Lieutenant Jason Redman was critically wounded in 2007 while leading a mission against a key al-Qaida commander, when his mobility and assault forces team was ambushed and he was struck by machine-gun fire at point-blank range. During the intense recovery that followed, Redman gained national attention after posting a sign on his hospital door that went on to become a symbol for wounded warriors everywhere. Vivid and emotionally resonant, The Trident traces the evolution of a modern warrior, husband, and father—a man who has come to embody the never-say-die spirit that defines America’s elite fighting force.

**The True Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements**

*Eric Hoffer*

A stevedore on the San Francisco docks in the 1940s, Eric Hoffer wrote philosophical treatises in his spare time while living in the railroad yards. "The True Believer"—the first and most famous of his books—was made into a bestseller when President Eisenhower cited it during one of the earliest television press conferences. Completely relevant and essential for understanding the world today, "The True Believer" is a visionary, highly provocative look into the mind of the fanatic and a penetrating study of how an individual becomes one.
War of Numbers: An Intelligence Memoir

Sam Adams

Sam Adams loved intelligence work, and that enthusiasm shines throughout this memoir. His career with the Central Intelligence Agency was dominated by an epic struggle over Vietnam—with military attempts to hide the true size of the enemy forces there, and over the integrity of the intelligence process. Adams' insistence on telling the truth caused a ruckus in both Washington and Saigon at the time, and years later, after the CIA had threatened to fire him, he quit the agency in disgust. Adams brought his story back up to the surface more loudly than ever in a CBS television documentary, which eventually resulted in a notorious trial on libel charges brought by General William Westmoreland.
GLOBAL ANALYSIS

Jeffrey Lewis

“The skies over the Korean Peninsula on March 21, 2020, were clear and blue.” So begins this sobering report on the findings of the commission on the nuclear attacks against the United States, established by law by Congress and President Donald J. Trump to investigate the horrific events of the next three days. An independent, bipartisan panel led by nuclear expert Jeffrey Lewis, the commission was charged with finding and reporting the relevant facts, investigating how the nuclear war began, and determining whether our government was adequately prepared for combating a nuclear adversary and safeguarding U.S. citizens.

AI Superpowers: China, Silicon Valley, and the New World Order

Kai-Fu Lee

"AI Superpowers" argues that because of unprecedented developments in AI, dramatic changes will be happening much sooner than many of us expected. Indeed, as the U.S.-Sino AI competition begins to heat up, the author urges the U.S. and China to both accept and to embrace the great responsibilities that come with significant technological power. He predicts Chinese and American AI will have a strong impact on white-collar jobs as well, and provides a clear description of which jobs will be affected and how soon, which jobs can be enhanced with AI, and, most importantly, how we can provide solutions to some of the most profound changes in human history that are coming soon.

The Battle for Syria: International Rivalry in the New Middle East

Christopher Phillips

Most accounts of Syria’s brutal, long-lasting civil war focus on a domestic contest that began in 2011 and only later drew foreign nations into the escalating violence. Christopher Phillips argues instead that the international dimension was never secondary, but that Syria’s war was, from the very start, influenced by regional factors, particularly the vacuum created by a perceived decline of U.S. power in the Middle East. This precipitated a new regional order in which six external protagonists have violently competed for influence, with Syria as a key battleground. Without absolving the brutal Bashar al-Assad regime, the author untangles the key external factors, which explain the acceleration and endurance of the conflict.
The Better Angels of our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined
Steven Pinker

Today we may be living in the most peaceful moment in our species’ existence. In this gripping and controversial new work, the author shows that despite the ceaseless news about war, crime, and terrorism, violence has actually been in decline over long stretches of history. Exploding myths about humankind’s inherent violence and the curse of modernity, this ambitious book continues the exploration of the essence of human nature, mixing psychology and history to provide a remarkable picture of an increasingly enlightened world.

The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable
Nassim Nicholas Taleb

A black swan is a highly improbable event with three principal characteristics: It is unpredictable, it carries a massive impact, and we concoct an explanation that makes it appear less random and more predictable than what it was. For Nassim Nicholas Taleb, black swans underlie almost everything about our world. Why do we not acknowledge the phenomenon of black swans until after they occur? According to Taleb, humans are hardwired to learn specifics when they should be focused on generalities. Therefore, we are unable to estimate opportunities; vulnerable to the impulse to simplify, narrate, and categorize; and not open enough to rewarding those who can imagine the “impossible.”

Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking
Malcolm Gladwell

In “Blink,” Malcolm Gladwell revolutionizes the way we understand the world within, and about how we think without thinking, about choices that seem to be made in an instant—in the blink of an eye—that actually aren’t as simple as they seem. Why are some people brilliant decision makers, while others are consistently inept? Why do some people follow their instincts and win, while others end up stumbling into error? And why are the best decisions often those that are impossible to explain to others? “Blink” reveals that great decision makers aren’t those who process the most information or spend the most time deliberating, but those who have perfected the art of “thin-slicing”—filtering the very few factors that matter from an overwhelming number of variables.
China’s Economy: What Everyone Needs to Know

Arthur R. Kroeber

In the 1980s, China was an impoverished backwater, struggling to escape the political turmoil and economic mismanagement of the Mao era. Today it is the world’s second biggest economy, the largest manufacturing and trading nation, the consumer of half the world’s steel and coal, the biggest source of international tourists, and one of the most influential investors in developing countries. How did China grow so fast for so long? How long can its vibrant economy co-exist with the repressive one-party state? What do China’s changes mean for the rest of the world? “China’s Economy: What Everyone Needs to Know” answers these questions with a wealth of detail.

Dawn of the Code War: America’s Battle Against Russia, China, and the Rising Global Cyber Threat

John P. Carlin with Garrett M. Graff

John Carlin has spent 15 years on the frontlines of America’s ongoing cyber war with its enemies. In this dramatic book, he tells the story of his years-long secret battle to keep America safe, and warns us of the perils that await us as we embrace the latest digital novelties—smart appliances, artificial intelligence, self-driving cars—with little regard for how our enemies might compromise them. The potential targets for our enemies are multiplying: our electrical grid, our companies, our information sources, our satellites. As each sector of the economy goes digital, a new vulnerability is exposed.

Fooled by Randomness: The Hidden Role of Chance in Life and in the Markets

Nassim Nicholas Taleb

"Fooled by Randomness" is a standalone book in Nassim Nicholas Taleb’s landmark Incerto series, an investigation of opacity, luck, uncertainty, probability, human error, risk, and decision-making in a world we don’t understand. The other books in the series are "The Black Swan," "Antifragile," "Skin in the Game," and "The Bed of Procrustes." This book is about luck—or more precisely, about how we perceive and deal with luck in life and business. Set against the backdrop of the most conspicuous forum in which luck is mistaken for skill. "Fooled by Randomness" provides captivating insight into one of the least understood factors in our lives.
Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything
Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

Through forceful storytelling and wry insight, Steven Levitt and co-author Stephen Dubner show that economics is, at root, the study of incentives—how people get what they want or need, especially when other people want or need the same thing. In "Freakonomics," they set out to explore the hidden side of... well, everything. "Freakonomics" establishes this unconventional premise: If morality represents how we would like the world to work, then economics represents how it actually does work. It is true that readers of this book will be armed with enough riddles and stories to last a thousand cocktail parties. But “Freakonomics” can provide more than that. It will redefine the way we view the modern world.

The Future of War: A History
Lawrence Freedman

As Lawrence Freedman shows, the future of war has a past and a present. Ideas of war, strategies for warfare and its practice, and organizing principles of war all have rich and varied origins, which have shaped the minds of those who conceive the next war. Freedman shows how war can be studied systematically and empirically to provide a firm foundation for enlightened policy. "The Future of War" is filled with insight and fascinating nuggets of military history and culture.

Human + Machine: Reimagining Work in the Age of AI
Paul R. Daugherty and H. James Wilson

Artificial intelligence is no longer just a futuristic notion. It’s here right now—in software that senses what we need, supply chains that “think” in real time, and robots that respond to changes in their environment. Twenty-first-century pioneer companies are already using AI to innovate and grow fast. The bottom line is this: Businesses that understand how to harness AI can surge ahead. Those that neglect it will fall behind. Which side are you on? In "Human + Machine," the authors show that the essence of the AI paradigm shift is the transformation of all business processes within an organization—whether related to breakthrough innovation, everyday customer service, or personal productivity habits.
LikeWar: The Weaponization of Social Media

P. W. Singer and Emerson T. Brooking

Through the weaponization of social media, the internet is changing war and politics, just as war and politics are changing the internet. Terrorists livestream their attacks, “Twitter wars” produce real-world casualties, and viral misinformation alters not just the result of battles, but the very fate of nations. The result is that war, tech, and politics have blurred into a new kind of battlespace that plays out on our smartphones. The authors tackle the mind-bending questions that arise when war goes online and the online world goes to war. "LikeWar" outlines a radical new paradigm for understanding and defending against the unprecedented threats of our networked world.

Meltdown: Why Our Systems Fail and What We Can Do about It

Chris Clearfield and András Tilcsik

A groundbreaking take on how complexity causes failure in all kinds of modern systems—from social media to air travel—Chris Clearfield and András Tilcsik reveal how we can prevent meltdowns in business and life. Weaving together cutting-edge social science with riveting stories that take us from the frontlines of the Volkswagen scandal to the top of Mount Everest. But, "Meltdown" isn’t just about failures, it’s also about solutions. It explains why the ugly designs make us safer, why teams with fewer experts are better at managing risk, and why diversity is one of the best safeguards against failure.

The Perfect Weapon: War, Sabotage, and Fear in the Cyber Age

David E. Sanger

In less than a decade, cyberweapons have displaced terrorism and nuclear missiles as the biggest immediate threat to international security and to democracy. In "The Perfect Weapon," New York Times correspondent David E. Sanger takes us from the White House Situation Room to the dens of Chinese government hackers and the boardrooms of Silicon Valley, piecing together a remarkable picture of a world now coming face-to-face with the most sophisticated—and arguably most dangerous—weapon ever invented. "The Perfect Weapon" is the dramatic story of a new era of constant sabotage, misinformation, and fear, in which everyone is a target.
Small Wars, Big Data: The Information Revolution in Modern Conflict
Eli Berman, Joseph H. Felter, and Jacob N. Shapiro

The way wars are fought has changed starkly over the past 60 years. International military campaigns used to play out between large armies at central fronts. Today’s conflicts find major powers facing rebel insurgencies that deploy elusive methods, from improvised explosives to terrorist attacks. "Small Wars, Big Data" presents a transformative understanding of these contemporary confrontations and how they should be fought. The authors show that a revolution in the study of conflict—enabled by vast data, rich qualitative evidence, and modern methods—yields new insights into terrorism, civil wars, and foreign interventions.

Structured Analytical Techniques for Intelligence Analysis
Richards J. Heuer Jr. and Randolph H. Pherson

Richards J. Heuer Jr. and Randolph H. Pherson turn a lifetime of expertise toward formalizing, adapting, and standardizing a set of 50 of the most robust analytic techniques in use in intelligence analysis today. This ready reference showcases current and cutting-edge best practices and represents a significant leap forward in depth, detail, and utility from existing handbooks. Logically organized and richly illustrated, "Structured Analytical Techniques" makes it easy to navigate, reference, and put the tools to use right away. Each technique is clearly and systematically explained: when to use, value added, the method, potential pitfalls, examples of how it can be used, its relationship to other techniques, and its origins.

Technopoly: The Surrender of Culture to Technology
Neil Postman

Mixing provocative insights and oft-heard criticism, "Technopoly: The Surrender of Culture to Technology," defines the U.S. as an emerging "technopoly," or a society in which machines and technology are deified to a near-totalitarian degree. This system elevates experts to "priestly" status, whether in economics or in child-rearing; it maintains a bureaucracy to control the flow of information; it likens human beings to computers in reductionist fashion, misapplies statistics in IQ tests and public opinion polls, and uses advertising to "devour the psyches of consumers" through symbolic manipulation. In medicine, technopoly is evident in doctors who aggressively overuse machines and X-rays. The author presents a stark, often terrifying, vision of a soulless society beholden to machines.
Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference
Malcolm Gladwell

The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire. Just as a single sick person can start an epidemic of the flu, so too can a small but precisely targeted push cause a fashion trend, the popularity of a new product, or a drop in the crime rate. Malcolm Gladwell explores and brilliantly illuminates the tipping point phenomenon and introduces us to the particular personality types who are natural pollinators of new ideas and trends, the people who create the phenomenon of word of mouth. He analyzes fashion trends, smoking, children's television, direct mail, and the early days of the American Revolution for clues about making ideas infectious.

You Are Not So Smart: Why You Have Too Many Friends on Facebook, Why Your Memory Is Mostly Fiction, and 46 Other Ways You're Deluding Yourself
David McRaney

Growing out of David McRaney's popular blog, "You Are Not So Smart" reveals that every decision we make, every thought we contemplate, and every emotion we feel, comes with a story we tell ourselves to explain them, but often these stories aren't true. Each short chapter—covering topics such as "Learned Helplessness," "Selling Out," and the "Illusion of Transparency"—is like a psychology course with all the boring parts taken out. Bringing together popular science and psychology with humor and wit, "You Are Not So Smart" is a celebration of our irrational, thoroughly human behavior.
American Generalship: Character is Everything: The Art of Command

Edgar F. Puryear Jr.

Throughout his life, Edgar F. “Beau” Puryear Jr. has studied America’s top military leaders. In his research for this book, he has sought to discover what allowed them to rise above their contemporaries; what prepared them for the terrible responsibilities they bore as the commanders of our Armed Forces during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf, and on to today; and how they are different from you and me. Ultimately, first and foremost, Puryear discovered that character is the single most important and the most distinctive element shared by these individuals. Character is everything!

Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II

Liza Mundy

Recruited by the U.S. Army and Navy from small towns and elite colleges, more than 10,000 women served as codebreakers during World War II. While their brothers and boyfriends took up arms, these women moved to Washington and learned the meticulous work of code-breaking. Their efforts shortened the war, saved countless lives, and gave them access to careers previously denied to them. A strict vow of secrecy nearly erased their efforts from history. Now, through research and interviews with surviving code girls, Liza Mundy brings to life this vital story of American courage, service, and scientific accomplishment.

Command and Control: Nuclear Weapons, the Damascus Accident, and the Illusion of Safety

Eric Schlosser

“Command and Control” interweaves the minute-by-minute story of an accident at a nuclear missile silo in rural Arkansas with a historical narrative that spans more than 50 years. It depicts the urgent effort by American scientists, policymakers, and military officers to ensure nuclear weapons can’t be stolen, sabotaged, used without permission, or detonated inadvertently. Eric Schlosser also looks at the Cold War from a new perspective, offering history from the ground up. He tells the stories of bomber pilots, missile commanders, maintenance crews, and other ordinary servicemen who risked their lives to avert a nuclear holocaust.
Gods and Generals
Jeff Shaara

In a prequel of sorts to his father Michael Shaara's 1974 epic novel, "The Killer Angels," Jeff Shaara explores the lives of Generals Lee, Hancock, Jackson, and Chamberlain as the pivotal Battle of Gettysburg approaches. Shaara captures the disillusionment of both Lee and Hancock early in their careers, Lee's conflict with loyalty, Jackson's overwhelming Christian ethic and Chamberlain's total lack of experience, while illustrating how each compensated for shortcomings and failures when put to the test. The perspectives of the four men, particularly concerning the battles at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, make vivid the realities of war.

Haunted by Chaos: China's Grand Strategy from Mao Zedong to Xi Jinping
Sulmaan Wasif Khan

Before the Chinese Communist Party came to power, China lay broken and fragmented. Today it is a force on the global stage, and yet its leaders have continued to be haunted by the past. For all their considerable costs, China's grand strategies have been largely successful. But the country faces great challenges today. Its population is aging, its government is undermined by corruption, its neighbors are arming out of concern over its growing power, and environmental degradation threatens catastrophe. A question "Haunted by Chaos" raises is whether China's time-tested approach can respond to the looming threats of the 21st century.

James Madison and the Struggle for the Bill of Rights
Richard Labunski

Today we hold the Constitution in such high regard that we can hardly imagine how hotly contested was its adoption. In fact, many of the 13 states saw fierce debate over the document, and ratification was by no means certain. Virginia, the largest and most influential state, approved the Constitution by the barest of margins, and only after an epic political battle between James Madison and Patrick Henry. Now Richard Labunski offers a dramatic account of a time when the entire American experiment hung in the balance, only to be saved by the most unlikely of heroes—the diminutive and exceedingly shy Madison.
The Last Full Measure: A Novel of the Civil War

Jeff Shaara

As "The Last Full Measure" opens, Gettysburg is past and the war advances to its third brutal year. On the Union side, the gulf between the politicians in Washington and the generals in the field yawns ever wider. Never has the cumbersome Union Army so desperately needed a decisive, hard-nosed leader. It is at this critical moment that President Lincoln places Ulysses S. Grant in command—and turns the tide of war.

Leadership: In Turbulent Times

Doris Kearns Goodwin

In "Leadership," Doris Kearns Goodwin draws upon the four presidents she has studied most closely—Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Lyndon B. Johnson—to show how they recognized leadership qualities within themselves and were recognized as leaders by others. By looking back to their first entries into public life, we encounter them at a time when their paths were filled with confusion, fear, and hope. "Leadership" tells the story of how they all collided with dramatic reversals that disrupted their lives and threatened to shatter forever their ambitions. Nonetheless, they all emerged fitted to confront the contours and dilemmas of their times.

The Lessons of History

Will Durant and Ariel Durant

A concise survey of the culture and civilization of mankind, "The Lessons of History" is the result of a lifetime of research from Pulitzer Prize–winning historians. With their accessible compendium of philosophy and social progress, the authors take us on a journey through history, exploring the possibilities and limitations of humanity over time. Juxtaposing the great lives, ideas, and accomplishments with cycles of war and conquest, the authors reveal the towering themes of history and give meaning to our own.
Major General George H. Sharpe and the Creation of American Military Intelligence in the Civil War

Peter G. Tsouras

George H. Sharpe is celebrated as one of the most remarkable Americans of the 19th century. He built an intelligence organization (The Bureau of Military Information - BMI) from a standing start beginning in February 1863. He was the first man in military history to create a professional all-source intelligence operation, defined by the U.S. Army as "the intelligence products, organizations, and activities that incorporates all sources of information, in the production of intelligence." Renowned historian Peter Tsouras contends that this creation under Sharpe's leadership was the combat multiplier that ultimately allowed the Union to be victorious.

Memoirs of General W. T. Sherman

William T. Sherman

Hailed as a prophet of modern war and condemned as a harbinger of modern barbarism, William Tecumseh Sherman is the most controversial general of the American Civil War. Written with the propulsive energy and intelligence that marked his campaigns, "Memoirs of General W. T. Sherman" describes striking incidents and anecdotes and collects dozens of his incisive and often outspoken wartime orders and reports. This complex self-portrait of an innovative and relentless American warrior provides vivid, firsthand accounts of the war’s crucial events—Shiloh, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, the Atlanta campaign, and the marches through Georgia and the Carolinas.

Pacific Crucible: War at Sea in the Pacific, 1941-1942

Ian W. Toll

On the first Sunday in December 1941, an armada of Japanese warplanes appeared suddenly over Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and devastated the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Six months later, in a sea fight north of the tiny atoll of Midway, four Japanese aircraft carriers were sent into the abyss. Encompassing both the high command and the "sailor's-eye" view from the lower deck, "Pacific Crucible" tells the epic tale of these first searing months of the Pacific war, when the U.S. Navy shook off the worst defeat in American military history and seized the strategic initiative.
The Party: The Secret World of China’s Communist Rulers

Richard McGregor

The Chinese Communist Party not only has a grip on every aspect of government, from the largest, richest cities to the smallest far-flung villages in Tibet and Xinjiang, it also has a hold on all official religions, the media, and the military. In his book, Richard McGregor delves deeply into China’s inner sanctum for the first time, showing how the Communist Party controls the government, courts, media, and military, and how it keeps all corruption accusations against its members in-house. The CPC’s decisions have a global impact, yet the party remains a deeply secretive body, hostile to the law, and unaccountable to anyone or anything other than its own internal tribunals.

The Peacemakers: Leadership Lessons from Twentieth-Century Statesmanship

Bruce W. Jentleson

In the 20th century, great leaders played vital roles in making the world a fairer and more peaceful place. How did they do it? What lessons can be drawn for the 21st-century global agenda? Those questions are at the heart of "The Peacemakers," a kind of global edition of John F. Kennedy’s "Profiles in Courage." Bruce W. Jentleson shows how 20th-century leaders of a variety of types—national, international, institutional, sociopolitical, nongovernmental—rewrote the zero-sum scripts they were handed and successfully made breakthroughs on issues long thought intractable.

The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America’s Shining Women

Kate Moore

“The Radium Girls” illuminates the inspiring young women exposed to the "wonder" substance of radium, and their awe-inspiring strength in the face of almost impossible circumstances. Their courage and tenacity led to life-changing regulations, research into nuclear bombing, and ultimately saved hundreds of thousands of lives.
Rise of the Rocket Girls: The Women Who Propelled Us, from Missiles to the Moon to Mars

Nathalia Holt

In the 1940s and 50s, when the newly minted Jet Propulsion Laboratory needed quick-thinking mathematicians to calculate velocities and plot trajectories, they didn’t turn to male graduates. Rather, they recruited an elite group of young women who transformed rocket design, helped bring about the first American satellites, and made the exploration of the solar system possible. "Rise of the Rocket Girls” tells the stories of these women who broke the boundaries of both gender and science. Based on extensive research and interviews with all the living members of the team, "Rise of the Rocket Girls” offers a unique perspective on the role of women in science.

Safe Passage: The Transition from British to American Hegemony

Kori Schake

History records only one peaceful transition of hegemonic power: the passage from British to American dominance of the international order. What made that transition uniquely cooperative and non-violent? Does it offer lessons to guide policy as the United States faces its own challengers to the order it has enforced since the 1940s? To answer these questions, Kori Schake explores nine points of crisis or tension between Britain and the United States, from the Monroe Doctrine in 1823 to the establishment of the unequal “special relationship” during World War II. Over this period, “Safe Passage” shows the United States gradually changed the rules that Britain had established at its imperial height.

The Shadow Warriors: OSS and the Origins of the CIA

Bradley F. Smith

"The Shadow Warriors” begins with the rise of William J. “Wild Bill” Donovan and the relinquishing of control of intelligence by Assistant Secretary of State Adolf A. Berle due to the distasteful nature of the business. Bradley F. Smith tells the story of the forming of the O.S.S. month by month, document by document, in an interestingly human way that simultaneously addresses moral and military questions.
The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels
Jon Meacham

Our current climate of partisan fury is not new, and in "The Soul of America" Jon Meacham shows us how what Abraham Lincoln called the "better angels of our nature" have repeatedly won the day. Painting surprising portraits of Lincoln and other presidents, and illuminating the courage of influential citizen activists, Meacham brings vividly to life turning points in American history. He writes about the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the birth of the Lost Cause; the backlash against immigrants in the First World War and the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s; the fight for women's rights; and Lyndon Johnson's crusade against Jim Crow, among other topics.

South: The Endurance Expedition
Ernest Shackleton

In 1914, as the shadow of war falls across Europe, a party led by veteran explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton sets out to become the first to traverse the Antarctic continent. Their initial optimism is short-lived, however, as the ice field slowly thickens; encasing the ship, Endurance, in a death-grip; crushing their craft; and marooning 28 men on a polar ice floe. In an epic struggle of man versus the elements, Shackleton leads his team on a harrowing quest for survival over some of the most unforgiving terrain in the world. What happened to those brave men forever stands as a testament to their strength of will and the power of human endurance.

The Square and the Tower: Networks and Power, from the Freemasons to Facebook
Niall Ferguson

The 21st century has been hailed as the Age of Networks. However, in "The Square and the Tower," Niall Ferguson argues that networks have always been with us, from the structure of the brain to the food chain, from the family tree to freemasonry, from the cults of ancient Rome to the dynasties of the Renaissance, from the Founding Fathers to Facebook. "The Square and the Tower" tells the story of the rise, fall and rise of networks, and shows how network theory — concepts such as clustering, degrees of separation, weaknesses, contagions and phase transitions — can transform our understanding of both the past and the present.
The Two Koreas: A Contemporary History

Don Oberdorfer and Robert Carlin

North Korea is an impoverished, famine-ridden nation, but it is also a nuclear power, whose dictator Kim Jong-un regularly threatens his neighbors and adversaries, the United States in particular, with destruction. However, the idea that North Korea is a menace is not a new one. Indeed, ever since Korea was first divided at the end of World War II, the tension between its northern and southern halves has riveted—and threatened to embroil—the rest of the world. In this landmark history, the authors grippingly describe how a historically homogenous people became locked in a perpetual struggle for supremacy—and how other nations, including the United States, have tried, and failed, to broker a lasting peace.

War: An Enquiry

A.C. Grayling

For residents of the 21st century, a vision of a future without warfare is almost inconceivable. Though wars are terrible and destructive, they seem unavoidable. In this original and deeply considered book, A. C. Grayling examines, tests, and challenges the concept of war. He proposes that a deeper, more accurate understanding of war may enable us to reduce its frequency, mitigate its horrors, and lessen the burden of its consequences. Grayling explores the long, tragic history of war and how warfare has changed in response to technological advances. He probes much-debated theories concerning the causes of war and considers positive changes that may result from war.

With Lawrence in Arabia

Lowell Thomas

It was 1918 in Jerusalem, when the admiring young American scholar and journalist Lowell Thomas first met T. E. Lawrence. He went on to write "With Lawrence in Arabia," a book that sparked the Lawrence of Arabia legend and was the basis of the celebrated film. With brilliant narrative verve, Lowell recounts the exploits of the young British agent who managed to weld disparate and warring Arab tribes into a formidable mobile fighting force—a guerilla army that would defeat the Turks in the Arab Revolt, sealing the fate of the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East during World War I.

Jason Fagone

Jason Fagone chronicles the life of this extraordinary woman, who played an integral role in our nation’s history for 40 years. After World War I, Elizabeth Smith used her talents to catch gangsters and smugglers during Prohibition, then accepted a covert mission to discover and expose Nazi spy rings that were spreading like wildfire across South America, advancing ever closer to the United States. Fagone unveils America’s code-breaking history, bringing into focus the unforgettable events and personalities that would help shape modern intelligence.

Words of Wisdom from Ancient Greece

Translated by Alexander Zaphiriou, Illustrated by Panagiotis Stavropoulos

"Words of Wisdom from Ancient Greece" gathers the best of a thousand years of philosophy, history and literature, in a compilation of writing spanning from 800 BC to 200 AD. With selections from the five major schools of Greek thought—the Platonists, the Aristotelians, the Stoics, the Epicureans, and the Skeptics—this survey of ancient wisdom offers guidance for a life well lived from luminaries of Greece’s legendary past.

The Yom Kippur War: The Epic Encounter That Transformed the Middle East

Abraham Rabinovich

Abraham Rabinovich, who covered the war for The Jerusalem Post, draws on extensive interviews and primary source material to shape his enthralling narrative. We learn of two Egyptian nationals, working separately for the Mossad, who supplied Israel with key information that helped change the course of the war; of Defense Minister Moshe Dayan’s proposal for a nuclear “demonstration” to warn off the Arabs; and of Chief of Staff David Elazar’s conclusion on the fifth day of battle that Israel could not win. Newly available transcripts enable us to follow the decision-making process in real time from the prime minister’s office to commanders studying maps in the field.
The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For

David McCullough

A timely collection of speeches by David McCullough—winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, two National Book Awards, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom—that reminds us of fundamental American principles. Over the course of his distinguished career, McCullough has spoken before Congress, the White House, colleges and universities, historical societies, and other esteemed institutions. Now, at a time of self-reflection in America following a bitter election campaign that has left the country divided, McCullough has collected some of his most important speeches in a brief volume designed to identify important principles and characteristics that are particularly American.
FIVE EYE PARTNERS
As a young officer I was once told by a very smart leader, "If you want a new idea read an old book." Over my career I have found this to be very sound advice.

This reading should offer you a pathway toward understanding our world and, in time, should bring diversity of thought to our profession.

Challenge yourself to read broadly, widely, and often. The voices of the past have much to offer us all if we can find time to hear them.

Onward.

Major General John Howard, MNZM
Deputy Director for Commonwealth Integration
Defense Intelligence Agency
The Accidental Guerrilla: Fighting Small Wars in the Midst of a Big One

David Kilcullen

In "The Accidental Guerrilla," David Kilcullen provides a remarkably fresh perspective on the War on Terror. Kilcullen takes us "on the ground" to uncover the face of modern warfare, illuminating both the global war on terror and its relation to the associated "small wars" across the globe: Iraq, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Thailand, the Pakistani tribal zones, East Timor, and the horn of Africa. Kilcullen sees today's conflicts as a complex interweaving of contrasting trends—local insurgencies seeking autonomy caught up in a broader pan-Islamic campaign.

Albaneta: Lost Opportunity at Cassino

Ron Crosby

In mid-winter 1944, massive infantry losses were incurred at Cassino as the Allies fought to batter their way through heavily fortified positions to advance on Rome. Kiwi and Indian engineers created a golden opportunity to outflank Cassino through the construction of a road carved high up into the hills to the north of the German encampment. A surprise attack by 15 Kiwi Sherman tanks on 19 March saw the capture of Albaneta, a key German stronghold and supply line. This book details the brilliant opportunity afforded by the Kiwi engineers, the surprise and success that resulted, and the inevitable failure.

The Anatomy of Courage: The Classic WWI Account of the Psychological Effects of War

Lord Moran

Fear, and man's attempt to master it, is of eternal interest and just as significant today as when Moran, as a young medical officer, went to the trenches in 1914 to research the subject scientifically. He asked "what can be done to delay or prevent the using up of courage?" First published in 1945, this early groundbreaking account of the psychological effects of war, recounted by means of vivid first-hand observation and anecdote, came at a time when shell shock was equated with lack of moral fiber. His humane, considered observations, scientific analysis and proposed solutions constitute one of the great First World War sources.
Armed Conflict: The Lessons of Modern Warfare  
*Brian Steed*

What challenges will America face in armed conflicts of the future and how will we prepare for them? National security depends upon the ability of the military to "predict" the future nature of war. A military theorist and experienced armor officer, Brian Steed provides insights into the future of armed conflict by focusing on what has occurred in the past. Not because the past repeats itself, but because it reveals timeless principles of warfare. Five battles, one each in Korea, Vietnam, the Falklands, the Persian Gulf, and Somalia are analyzed historically, geographically, and strategically. The author focuses on why the events occurred as they did, and explores the significance of each battle’s political and military ramifications.

The Battle of Hamel: The Australians' Finest Victory  
*John Laffin*

The amazing and inspiring story of the capture of the German front line in July of 1918. It was the turning point of World War I, which came to a victorious end shortly after. John Laffin is one of the world’s most distinguished military historians and has written more than 60 books concerning war.

Blood and Silk: Power and Conflict in Modern Southeast Asia  
*Michael Vatikiotis*

This first-hand account shows what it's like to sit at the table with deadly Thai Muslim insurgents, mediate between warring clans in the Southern Philippines, and console the victims of political violence in Indonesia—all in an effort to negotiate peace and understand the reasons behind endemic violence. "Blood and Silk" tells the story of modern Southeast Asia using vivid portraits of the personalities who pull the strings, mixed with revealing analysis that is underpinned by decades of experience in the countries involved. The result is a study of the dynamics of power and conflict in one of the world's fastest growing regions.
B.H. Liddell Hart

During his long life, B. H. Liddell Hart was considered one of the world’s foremost military thinkers. In his writing, he stressed movement, flexibility, and surprise. He saw that in most military campaigns, it was vital to take an indirect approach. Rather than attacking the enemy head-on, one must dislocate their psychological and physical balance. With key examples from World War I and II, Liddell Hart defines the practical principles of waging war and proves they are as fundamental in the worlds of politics and business as they are in warfare.

Conquest without Victory: A New Zealander in the Greek and French Resistance
William Jordan

Here for the first time is the personal story of a hero of the Second World War whose bravery has become a legend in his own country. William “Major Bill” Jordan, a New Zealander on loan to the British Army “for special purposes,” parachuted into Greece in December 1942. There he played an important part in organizing a Resistance movement, which faced two separate enemies. Jordan showed uncommon courage and an inflexible hostility to Communism, which threatened, as much as Nazism did, the future of the countries in which he fought. His story is a testimonial to the ideal of freedom for which the Second World War was fought.

Defeat into Victory
Field Marshal Sir William Slim

Field-Marshal Sir William Slim (1891-1970) led shattered British forces from Burma to India in one of the lesser known but more nightmarish retreats of World War II. He then restored his army’s fighting capabilities and morale with virtually no support from home and counterattacked. His army’s defeat of Japanese troops ultimately liberated India and Burma. The updated version of “Defeat Into Victory,” published in 1956, tells the harrowing tale of this military campaign.
Defeating Communist Insurgency: Experiences from Malaya and Vietnam

Sir Robert Thompson

"Defeating Communist Insurgency" is a study of the basic theories of communist insurgency and of counter insurgency as they operate on the ground and affect the population of a threatened country. Written approximately 16 years ago, Sir Robert Thompson based most of the book on his experiences during the insurgencies in Malaya and Vietnam.

Echoes of Gallipoli: In the Words of New Zealand's Mounted Riflemen

Terry Kinloch

First published 10 years ago, "Echoes of Gallipoli" tells the story of Gallipoli through the eyes of the men of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade using their letters and diaries. The book tells the full story, including the call-up, sea journey, camp in Egypt, eventual arrival in Gallipoli, all the battles and skirmishes fought there, and, finally, the remarkable evacuation several months later.

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

John Keegan

"The Face of Battle" is military history from the battlefield. It’s a look at the direct experience of individuals at the "point of maximum danger." Without the myth-making elements of rhetoric and xenophobia, and breaking away from the stylized format of battle descriptions, John Keegan has written what is probably the definitive model for military historians. In his scrupulous reassessment of three battles, which represents three different time periods, he manages to convey what the experience of combat meant for the participants, whether they were facing the arrow cloud at the battle of Agincourt, the musket balls at Waterloo, or the steel rain of the Somme.
The Game

Ken Dryden

Lauded by Sports Illustrated as one of the Top 10 Sports Books of All Time, "The Game" is a thought-provoking look at a life in hockey. Former Montreal Canadiens goalie and former president of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Ken Dryden captures the essence of hockey and what it means to fans. He gives us vivid and affectionate portraits of the characters that made the 1970s Canadiens one of the greatest hockey teams in history. But beyond that, Dryden reflects on life on the road, in the spotlight and on the ice, offering up a rare inside look at the game of hockey, and an incredible personal memoir.

The Generals: American Military Command from World War II to Today

Thomas E. Ricks

While history has been kind to the American generals of World War II, it has been less kind to the generals of the wars that followed. In this book, Thomas E. Ricks sets out to explain why that is. In chronicling the widening gulf between performance and accountability among the top brass of the U.S. military, Ricks tells the stories of great leaders and suspect ones, generals who rose to the occasion and generals who failed themselves and their soldiers. The story resounds with larger meaning: about the transmission of values, about strategic thinking, and about the difference between an organization that learns and one that fails.

Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement without Giving In

Roger Fisher and William Ury

One of the primary business texts of the modern era, "Getting to Yes" is based on the work of the Harvard Negotiation Project, a group that deals with all levels of negotiation and conflict resolution. "Getting to Yes" offers a proven, step-by-step strategy for coming to mutually acceptable agreements in every sort of conflict. Thoroughly updated and revised, it offers readers a straightforward, universally applicable method for negotiating personal and professional disputes.
An Intimate History of Killing: Face to Face Killing in 20th Century Warfare

Joanna Bourke

The characteristic act of men at war is not dying, but killing. Politicians and historians may gloss over human slaughter, emphasizing the defense of national honor, but for men in active service, warfare means being—or becoming—efficient killers. In “An Intimate History of Killing,” historian Joanna Bourke asks: What are the social and psychological dynamics of becoming the best “citizen soldiers?” What kind of men become the best killers? How do they readjust to civilian life? This graphic, unromanticized look at men at war is sure to revise many long-held beliefs about the nature of violence.

Leadership: 50 Points of Wisdom for Today’s Leaders

General Rick Hillier (Ret)

General Rick Hillier’s views on leadership evolved over his three decades as a soldier. Early in his career he watched as many of his superiors made bad decisions. Later, he learned about leadership as the head of emergency rescue operations in Canada and international task forces in eastern Europe and Afghanistan. For Hillier, leadership is all about people—embracing those you are in charge of and winning over those you need to work with—not risk aversion or management fads. “Leadership” is an inspirational, easy-to-read and, in true Hillier fashion, often humorous collection of 50 principles that will challenge the way you run your business, start a project, or take that next step in life.

Maneuver Warfare: An Anthology

Edited by Richard D. Hooker Jr.

Several of the writers in this collection suggest that a smaller army could actually be a stronger one, if it is trained and equipped to fight in the maneuver-warfare mode. Topics covered in the book include defining maneuver warfare, German tactics in World War I as a model, why World War II German General Erwin Rommel is thought of as a sterling maneuverist, and how maneuver warfare is taught and some of its training methods. This anthology is a thorough discussion of the primary doctrine of American ground forces now and in the foreseeable future.
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Mark of the Lion: The Story of Charles Upham V.C. and Bar
Kenneth Sandford

One of the few people in history to have won the Victoria Cross twice, Charles Upham was the great New Zealand war hero who set new standards of personal heroism during World War II. At the front in Crete and North Africa, he destroyed enemy machine gun posts single-handedly and led a frontal assault on enemy guns. He then spent the rest of the war in prisoner-of-war camps, including the famous Colditz Castle, where he made life a misery for the German guards. His exploits and individual heroism are the stuff of Kiwi legend.

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Edited by Donald Vandergriff and Stephen Webber

While the U.S. military and many of our allies have formally adopted mission command, much work remains to truly understand and implement this style of leadership. In this anthology, 12 authors from three nations (United States, United Kingdom, and Norway) offer diverse perspectives on the topic of mission command as it relates to their service in the military, law enforcement, government, and private sector. Real-world examples supported by in-depth research provide the who, what, when, where, and why of mission command, identifying opportunities to improve how we lead our teams.

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Modern Strategy
Colin S. Gray

"Modern Strategy" explains the permanent nature, but ever changing character of strategy in light of the whole strategic experience of the 20th century. The book is a major contribution to the general theory of strategy; the classic writings of Carl von Clausewitz are reconsidered for their continuing relevance, while possible successors are appraised. This is the first comprehensive account of all aspects of modern strategy since the Cold War ended.
No Picnic

Julian Thompson

Of course, fighting a war is always difficult—but when you’re conducting an amphibious campaign over 8,000 miles from home, the task becomes herculean. Such were the circumstances in the Falklands in 1982, where in the unforgiving climate of the South Atlantic, the outnumbered British struggled to defeat Argentina’s troops. Written by the commander of England’s land forces there, this first major account of the war reveals the frustrations, hardships, and, ultimately, the success of a campaign regarded by many as a mission impossible.

Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War, 1939-45: Problems of 2 NZEF

Major-General W.G. Stevens

"The Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War 1939-45" is a 48-volume series published by the War History Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs, which covered New Zealand involvement in the Second World War. The series was published during the period 1949 to 1986.

On Infantry (Revised Edition)

John A. English and Bruce I. Gudmundsson

Part of Praeger’s "The Military Profession" series, this revised edition of the 1984 Praeger classic tells the story of infantry in the 20th century and its impact on the major conflicts of our time. Its purpose is to provide the reader—whether infantry or not—with hitherto unavailable insights on the role that infantry plays in the larger battle and how that has helped shape the world that we live in today. Combat motivation and combat refusal, the role played by small units (such as the squad and fire team), the role of infantry in the blitzkrieg, and many other issues often papered over in the literature of infantry are discussed and analyzed in detail in this revised edition.
Once an Eagle
Anton Myrer

A study in courage, honesty, and selflessness, "Once An Eagle" is the story of one special man, a soldier named Sam Damon, and his adversary over a lifetime, fellow officer Courtney Massengale. Damon is a professional who puts duty, honor, and the men he commands above self-interest. Massengale, however, brilliantly advances by making the right connections behind the lines and in Washington's corridors of power. Beginning in the French countryside during the Great War, the conflict between these adversaries solidifies in the isolated garrison life marking peacetime, intensifies in the deadly Pacific jungles of World War II, and reaches its treacherous conclusion in the last major battleground of the Cold War—Vietnam.

Operation Goodtime and the Battle of the Treasury Islands, 1943
Reg Newell

On October 27, 1943, a force of New Zealanders and Americans invaded the Treasury Islands in the South Pacific, retaking them from their Japanese occupiers. Codenamed Operation Goodtime, the action marked the first time New Zealand forces took part in an opposed landing since Gallipoli in 1915. In an unusual allocation of troops in the American-dominated theater, New Zealand provided air, naval, and logistical support. The Allies succeeded with relatively few casualties, however due to the need for operational security, Operation Goodtime received little publicity. This first complete account of the Allied seizure of the Treasury Islands stands as a tribute to the warriors who fought in this struggle.

Overture to Overlord
Sir Frederick Morgan

General Frederick Morgan was the British officer in charge of planning the invasion of Northwestern France. This book recounts the dramatic achievement, which made D-Day possible and led to the success of one of the greatest invasions in history. It offers a fairly meaty report to the assembled public of the ramifications—personal as well as official—of "Operation Overlord" by the chief of staff to the supreme allied commander (designate). "Overture to Overlord" is filled with anecdotes, sketches of famous personalities, and incidents, which are frequently as amusing as they are illuminating.
The Rommel Papers
Edited by B.H. Liddell Hart

When Erwin Rommel died he left behind the papers that recorded the story of his dramatic career and the exact details of his masterly campaigns. It was his custom to dictate, each evening, a running narrative of the day’s events and, after each battle, to summarize the lessons learned. He wrote, almost daily, intimate and outspoken letters to his wife in which he expressed his private feelings and forebodings. An engrossing human document and a rare look at the mind of the "Desert Fox," "The Rommel Papers" throws an interesting light on the Axis alliance and on the inner workings of Hitler’s high command.

Shackleton’s Way: Leadership Lessons from the Great Antarctic Explorer
Margot Morrell and Stephanie Capparell

Sir Ernest Shackleton has been called "the greatest leader that ever came on God’s earth, bar none" for saving the lives of the 27 men stranded with him in the Antarctic for almost two years. Because of his courageous actions, he remains to this day a model for great leadership and masterful crisis management. Now, through anecdotes, the diaries of the men in his crew, and Shackleton’s own writing, Shackleton’s leadership style and time-honored principles are translated for the modern business world.

The Signal and the Noise—Why So Many Predictions Fail—but Some Don’t
Nate Silver

Drawing on his own groundbreaking work, Nate Silver examines the world of prediction; investigating how we can distinguish a true signal from a universe of noisy data. Most predictions fail, often at great cost to society, because most of us have a poor understanding of probability and uncertainty. Both experts and laypeople mistake more confident predictions for more accurate ones. But overconfidence is often the reason for failure. If our appreciation of uncertainty improves, our predictions can as well. This is the “prediction paradox.” The more humility we have about our ability to make predictions, the more successful we can be in planning for the future.
Silent Invasion: China's Influence in Australia

Clive Hamilton

In 2016, it was revealed that wealthy Chinese businessmen linked to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) had become the largest donors to both major Australian political parties. An investigation into the Chinese government's influence in Australia unveiled shocking results. From politics to culture, real estate to universities, universities to unions, even in primary schools, there was compelling evidence of the CCP's infiltration of Australia. It is no exaggeration to say the CCP and Australian democracy are on a collision course, with the CCP determined to win, while Australia looks the other way. "Silent Invasion" is a sobering examination of the mounting threats to democratic freedoms Australians have for too long taken for granted.

The Sling and the Stone: On War in the 21st Century

Colonel Thomas X. Hammes, USMC

David’s sling-and-stone fight against Goliath isn't that far from Iraqi insurgents fighting against coalition forces. While DoD continues to build a high-tech American military to win wars against other, albeit second-tier, Goliaths, insurgents have adopted and are practicing sling-and-stone, low-tech, fourth generation warfare (4GW). These 4GW warriors rely on networks of people over networks of state-of-the-art, high-tech weapons. Colonel Thomas X. Hammes, explores the evolution and current practice of 4GW. DoD’s focus on technology drives its doctrine, organization, training, and education. It teaches people to take advantage of technology, instead of thinking about fighting and win wars.

The Stilwell Papers

General Joseph W. Stilwell

After two and a half years of bitter struggle in the China-Burma-India theater during the dog days of World War II, General Joseph W. Stilwell was abruptly relieved of his command and brought back to the U.S. in an "atmosphere of crime." From the time he flew to China to assume command of the handful of American forces in CBI theater until his recall in 1944, General Stilwell was engaged in one of the most complex, difficult, and confidential operations in American military history. "The Stilwell Papers," brilliantly edited and arranged by Theodore H. White, is the striking self-portrait of a man and his struggle.
Strategy: The Logic of War and Peace

Edward N. Luttwak

In his book, Edward Luttwak unveils the peculiar logic of strategy level by level, from grand strategy down to combat tactics. In the tradition of Carl von Clausewitz, “Strategy” goes beyond paradox to expose the dynamics of reversal at work in the crucible of conflict. As victory is turned into defeat by over-extension, as war brings peace by exhaustion, ordinary linear logic is overthrown. Citing examples from ancient Rome to our own days, from Barbarossa and Pearl Harbor down to minor combat affrays, from the strategy of peace to the latest operational methods of war, this book reveals the ultimate logic of military failure and success, of war and peace.

Tank Action: An Armoured Troop Commander’s War 1944-45

David Render with Stuart Tootal

In 1944, David Render was a 19-year-old second lieutenant fresh from Sandhurst when he was sent to France. Joining the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry five days after the D-Day landings, the combat-hardened men he was sent to command did not expect him to last long. However, in the following weeks of ferocious fighting, his ability to emerge unscathed from countless combat engagements earned him the nickname of the “Inevitable Mr. Render.” In "Tank Action," Render tells his remarkable story, spanning every major episode of the last year of World War II. It is a story of survival, comradeship and the ability to stand up and be counted as a leader in combat.

Think!: Before It’s Too Late

Edward de Bono

The world is full of problems and conflicts. So why can we not solve them? According to Edward de Bono, current thinking cannot solve world problems because current thinking is, in itself, the problem. And this is getting worse: We are so accustomed to readily available information online that we search immediately for the answers rather than thinking about them. De Bono examines why we think the way we do from a historical perspective, and uses some of his famous thinking techniques combined with new ideas to show us how to change the way we think.
Unflinching: The Making of a Canadian Sniper  
*Jody Mitic*

Elite sniper Jody Mitic loved being a soldier. His raw, candid, and engrossing memoir follows his personal journey into the Canadian military, through sniper training and firefights in Afghanistan, culminating on the fateful night when he stepped on a landmine and lost both of his legs below the knees. "Unflinching" is a powerful chronicle of the honor and sacrifice of an ordinary Canadian fighting for his country, and an authentic portrait of military life. It’s also an inspirational memoir about living your dreams, even in the face of overwhelming adversity, and having the courage to soldier on.

The U.S. Army Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Field Manual  
*General David H. Petraeus, Lt. General James F. Amos, and Lt. Colonel John A. Nagl*

This field manual establishes a framework for military operations in a counterinsurgency environment based on lessons learned from previous counterinsurgencies and contemporary operations, as well as existing interim and recently developed doctrine. This is a comprehensive manual that details every aspect of a successful counterinsurgency operation from intelligence to leadership to diplomacy. It also includes several useful appendices, which provide key supplementary material.

Wavell: Scholar and Soldier  
*John Connell*

"Wavell" was written by an English author who served under Field Marshall Sir Archibald. This first volume of a biographical study of "one of the greatest soldiers and noblest characters of his age" ends in June, 1941, when General Auchinleck replaced him as commander-in-chief of the Middle East. With many excerpts from Wavell’s terse and humorous personal and official papers, the book has a strong autobiographical flavor.
Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy
Cathy O’Neil

We live in the age of the algorithm. Increasingly, the decisions that affect our lives are being made not by humans, but by mathematical models. In theory, this should lead to greater fairness: Everyone is judged according to the same rules, and bias is eliminated. But as Cathy O’Neil reveals in this urgent and necessary book, the opposite is true. The models being used today are opaque, unregulated, and uncontestable, even when they’re wrong. Models are propping up the lucky and punishing the downtrodden, creating a “toxic cocktail for democracy.” O’Neil calls on modelers to take responsibility for their algorithms and on policy makers to regulate their use.

When Britain Goes to War
B.H. Liddell Hart

“When Britain Goes to War” is an examination of the British Grand Strategy. After experiencing World War I, Captain B.H. Liddell Hart questions how Great Britain could have been “seduced by Continental fashions” of warfare, which compromised their advantages. He attempts to answer the question of to what extent should Britain involve itself in the politics of mainland Europe. In this analysis, Liddell Hart assesses the very conduct of war with the principles of indirect approach and limited liability. Liddell Hart’s investigation incorporates the emerging concept of armored warfare, where he unknowingly predicts the World War II blitzkrieg.