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.
The mandate that we be life-long learners is essential to remaining relevant in today’s rapidly changing world. Technology has unlocked vast amounts of information and has given us new ways to access data, share ideas, and create new opportunities for self-study.

Former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis counsels us, “…reading gives historical depth that lights the path ahead. Slowly but surely, we learned there was nothing new under the sun. Properly informed, we weren’t victims—we could always create options.”

By reading and listening, we are able to draw inspiration from across a greater spectrum of time and expertise than we could ever hope to achieve on our own. This education opens new ways of thinking, increasing our ability to innovate and cooperate by understanding others’ experiences, successes, and, often, failures. Moreover, it may unlock solutions and insights we might otherwise not recognize without our commitment to study the past in order to inform our future.

The 2020 DIA Bookshelf and Listening Library is different from earlier iterations and more than just my favorite books. All the books and podcasts compiled here are new recommendations from DIA officers and our Five Eyes partners. Our challenge is for you to explore new ideas and expand your horizons…

“And he refused to specialize in anything, preferring to keep an eye on the overall estate rather than any of its parts… and Nikolay’s management produced the most brilliant results.” Leo Tolstoy, War and Peace.

Enjoy!

Lieutenant General Robert P. Ashley, Jr., USA
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
Kohia te kai rangatira, ruia te taitea.
Gather the good food, throw away the rubbish.
-Maori Proverb

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 list 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 illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.”

**MR. ALVIN TOFFLER**
BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

“When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young.”

**MS. MAYA ANGELOU**
AMERICAN POET AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

“Let us pick up our books and our pens, they are our most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world.”

**MS. MALALA YOUSAFZAI**
NOBEL PRIZE LAUREATE
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“In education, technology can be a life-changer, a game changer, for kids who are both in school and out of school. Technology can bring textbooks to life. The internet can connect students to their peers in other parts of the world. It can bridge the quality gaps.”

—Queen Rania of Jordan
In 1978, paleontologists in East Africa discovered the earliest evidence of our divergence from apes: pre-human footprints, striding away from a volcano and preserved in the petrified surface of a mudpan over three million years ago. From Africa, the world’s most ancient and stable landmass, Homo sapiens dispersed across the globe. Yet, the rest of the world has long misunderstood and mistreated the continent that gave birth to human history. British writer and photojournalist John Reader brings to light Africa’s geology and evolution, the majestic array of its landforms and environments, the rich diversity of its peoples, the devastating legacies of slavery and colonialism as well as modern political troubles and triumphs.

After a lifetime of close observation, one of the world's finest Africa correspondents has penned a landmark book on life and death in modern Africa. Richard Dowden spins tales of cults and commerce in Senegal and traditional spirituality in Sierra Leone. He analyzes the impact of oil and the internet on Nigeria, aid to Sudan, and examines what has gone wrong in Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Burundi, and the Congo. Dowden's masterwork is an attempt to explain why Africa is the way it is and enables readers to see and understand this miraculous continent as a place of inspiration and tremendous humanity.

Undercover agent Tamer Elnoury joined an elite counterterrorism unit after 9/11 with the express purpose to gain the trust of terrorists, whose goals were to take out as many Americans possible. It’s a furious race against the clock for Elnoury and his unit to stop them before they can implement their plans. Yet, as a new war starts, the techniques are as old as time—listen, record, and prove terrorist intent.

In “Anatomy of Terror,” former FBI Special Agent Ali Soufan dissects Osama bin Laden’s brand of jihadi terrorism and its major offshoots, revealing how these organizations formed, how they operated, and their strengths and weaknesses. Soufan examines the new Islamic radicalism through the eyes of its flag-bearers, including a Jordanian former drug dealer, whose cruelties shocked even his fellow militants; an Air Force colonel who once served Saddam Hussein; and a provincial bookworm who declared himself caliph of all Muslims. To eliminate the scourge of terrorism, we must first know who the enemy actually is and what their motivations are.
**Angels in the Sky: How a Band of Volunteer Airmen Saved the New State of Israel**

*Robert Gandt*

In 1948, when the newly founded nation of Israel came under siege from a coalition of Arab states, a band of volunteer airmen from the United States, Canada, Britain, France, and South Africa arrived to help. They were a small group, fewer than 150. Many were World War II veterans. The airmen risked everything—their careers, citizenship, and lives—to fight for Israel. The saga of the volunteer airmen in Israel's war of independence stands as one of the most stirring—and little-known—war stories of the past century.

**Army of None: Autonomous Weapons and the Future of War**

*Paul Scharre*

The era of autonomous weapons has arrived. Today, around the globe, at least 30 nations have weapons that can search for and destroy enemy targets all on their own. Paul Scharre, a leading expert in next-generation warfare, describes these high-tech weapons systems—from Israel’s Harpy drone to the American submarine-hunting robot ship—and examines the legal and ethical issues surrounding their use.

**Artificial Intelligence**

*Lex Fridman*

Lex Fridman, research scientist at MIT, hosts the "Artificial Intelligence" podcast. With guest ranging from Elon Musk, speaking about Tesla's autopilot, to Melanie Mitchell, who discusses concepts, analogies, and common sense, "Artificial Intelligence" is about the nature of intelligence, science, and technology from the perspective of deep learning, robotics, AI, neuroscience, philosophy, psychology, and more.

**Bombshell**

*Loren DeJonge Schulman, Radha Iyengar Plumb, and Erin Simpson*

A biweekly podcast from Washington insiders, who dissect today’s foreign policy crises and tomorrow’s security challenges. They’ll talk military strategy, White House mayhem, and the best cocktails known to (wo)man.
By More Than Providence: Grand Strategy and American Power in the Asia Pacific Since 1783

*Michael J. Green*

After the American Revolution, some of the founders began to recognize the strategic significance of Asia and the Pacific and the vast material and cultural resources at stake there. During the coming generations, the United States continued to ask how best to expand trade with the region and whether to collaborate with China, at the center of the continent, or Japan, looking toward the Pacific. Where should the United States draw its defensive line, and how should it export democratic principles?

The Challenge for Africa

*Wangari Maathai*

Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize winner and founder of the Green Belt Movement, offers a new perspective on the troubles facing Africa today. The media too often portrays these challenges in extreme terms. Maathai sees things differently, and she argues for a moral revolution among Africans themselves. Illuminating the complex and dynamic nature of the continent, Maathai offers “hardheaded hope” and “realistic options” for change and improvement. She deftly describes what Africans can and need to do for themselves, stressing all the while responsibility and accountability.

The China Mission: George Marshall’s Unfinished War, 1945-1947

*Daniel Kurtz-Phelan*

At the end of World War II, Gen. George Marshall was renowned as the architect of Allied victory. Instead of retirement, he accepted one last mission—stop a war before it started. Conflict between Chinese Nationalists and Communists threatened to suck in the United States and escalate into a revolution. His assignment was to broker peace, build a Chinese democracy, and prevent a Communist takeover, all while staving off World War III.

The Cyberlaw Podcast

*Stewart Baker*

A weekly interview series on the latest events in technology, security, privacy, and government. The podcast is hosted by Steptoe & Johnson LLP partner Stewart Baker, who is joined by a wide variety of guests, including academics, politicians, authors, and reporters.
Cyberspace in Peace and War
Martin C. Libicki

“Cyberspace in Peace and War” presents a comprehensive understanding of cybersecurity, cyberwar, and cyberterrorism. From basic concepts to advanced principles, Martin Libicki examines the sources and consequences of system compromises; addresses how cybersecurity policies can strengthen countries defenses, leaving them less susceptible to cyberattack; and explores cybersecurity in the context of military operations, highlighting unique aspects of the digital battleground and strategic uses of cyberwar.

Defense One
Defense One

"Defense One" delivers news, breaking analysis, and ideas on the topics and trends that are defining the future of U.S. defense and national security. It gives national security professionals, stakeholders and citizens what they need to know, from senior leaders in Washington to commanders abroad and next-generation thinkers far from the political scrum.

Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China
Ezra F. Vogel

Deng Xiaoping was the pragmatic yet disciplined driving force behind China’s radical transformation in the late 20th century. He confronted the damage wrought by the Cultural Revolution, dissolved Mao’s cult of personality, and loosened the economic and social policies that had stunted China’s growth. Obsessed with modernization and technology, Deng opened trade relations with the West, which lifted hundreds of millions of his countrymen out of poverty. Yet, he answered to his authoritarian roots, most notably when he ordered the crackdown in June 1989 at Tiananmen Square.

Dictatorland: The Men Who Stole Africa
Paul Kenyon

One dictator grew so rich on his country's cocoa crop that he built a 35-story-high basilica in the jungles of the Ivory Coast. One austere, incorruptible leader shut Eritrea off from the world in a permanent state of war and conscripted every adult into the armed forces. The Libya army officer who authored a new work of political philosophy, “The Green Book,” and lived with a harem of female soldiers. Behind these stories of fantastic violence and excess lie the dark secrets of Western greed and complicity and the insatiable taste for chocolate, oil, diamonds, and gold that have encouraged dictators to rule with an iron fist, keeping their people in dire poverty.
Chances are the strategies that worked well for you even a few years ago no longer deliver the same results. Dramatic changes in business have unearthed a major gap between traditional approaches to strategy and the way the world works now. Rita Gunther McGrath argues that it’s time to go beyond the very concept of sustainable competitive advantage. Instead, organizations need to forge a new path to winning: capturing opportunities fast, exploiting them decisively, and moving on even before they are exhausted.

Revolutionary War officer Nathan Hale, one of America's first spies, said, "Any kind of service necessary to the public good becomes honorable by being necessary." A statue of Hale stands outside CIA headquarters, and the agency often cites his statement as one of its guiding principles. But, who decides what is necessary for the public good and is it really true that any kind of service is permissible for the public good? These questions are at the heart of “Fair Play.”

Madeleine Albright grew up in Hungary under Hitler and the Communist regime that followed World War II. Using the knowledge gleaned from her distinguished diplomatic career and insights from colleagues around the globe, Albright paints a clear picture of how fascism flourishes and explains why it is once again taking hold worldwide, identifying the factors contributing to its rise. Most importantly, she makes clear what could happen if we fail to act against rising fascist forces today and in the near future.

Award-winning historian Serhii Plokhy presents the authoritative history of Ukraine and its people from the time of Herodotus to the present crisis with Russia. As Ukraine once again finds itself at the center of global attention, "The Gates of Europe" provides unique insight into the origins of the most dangerous international crisis since the end of the Cold War.
Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times

Odd Arne Westad

The Cold War between the former Soviet Union and the United States indelibly shaped the world we live in today—international politics, economics, and military affairs. Odd Arne Westad examines how the globalization of the Cold War during the 20th century created the foundations for most of today's key international conflicts, including the War on Terror.

Global Dispatches

Mark Goldberg

"Global Dispatches" is a global affairs podcast with impact. Episodes often shine a spotlight on undercovered global issues, and listeners leave each episode informed, inspired, and more engaged in the world around them.

The Great American Gamble

Keith B. Payne

“The Great American Gamble” examines the past, present, and prospective future of U.S. deterrence theory, strategic forces, nuclear weapons, and policy. It provides a detailed explanation of the competing schools of deterrence theory that emerged during the late 1950s and early 1960s. Based on an extensive review of previously classified documents, Keith B. Payne demonstrates how and why U.S. government policies came to adhere to the guidelines established by the theory of deterrence called the “balance of terror.”

Guerrilla Diplomacy: Rethinking International Relations

Daryl Copeland

Daryl Copeland charts the course for a new kind of diplomacy, one in tune with the demands of today's interconnected, technology-driven world. Eschewing platitudes and broadly rethinking issues of security and development, Copeland provides the tools needed to frame and manage issues ranging from climate change to pandemic disease to asymmetrical conflict and weapons of mass destruction.
Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow

Yuval Noah Harari

What will replace famine, plague, and war at the top of the human agenda? As the self-made gods of planet Earth, what destinies will we set forth, and which quests will we undertake? “Homo Deus” explores the projects, dreams, and nightmares that will shape the 21st century—from overcoming death to creating artificial life. It asks the fundamental questions: Where do we go from here? How will we protect this fragile world from our own destructive powers? This is the next stage of evolution. This is Homo Deus.

Humble Pi: When Math Goes Wrong in the Real World

Matt Parker

Exploring and explaining a litany of glitches, near misses, and mathematical mishaps involving the internet, big data, elections, street signs, and lotteries, Matt Parker uncovers the bizarre ways math trips us up and what this reveals about its essential place in our world. Getting it wrong has never been more fun.

The Image of the Enemy: Intelligence Analysis of Adversaries Since 1945

Paul Maddrell

Intelligence agencies spend huge sums of money to collect and analyze vast quantities of national-security data for their leaders. How well is this intelligence analyzed, how often is it acted on by policymakers, and does it have a positive or negative effect on decisionmaking? Drawing on declassified documents, interviews with intelligence veterans and policymakers, and other sources, “The Image of the Enemy” breaks new ground as it examines how seven countries analyzed and used intelligence to shape their understanding of the adversary.

Intelligence Matters

Michael Morell

In "Intelligence Matters," former acting Director of the CIA Michael Morell, speaks with top leaders of the U.S. intelligence community as they reflect on their life, career and the critical roles they play in shaping national security policies. As a central figure in the most significant U.S. counterterror efforts of the past two decades, Morell is uniquely skilled at taking industry leading knowledge to make connections that provide deep insight into complex security events, helping decode intelligence officials' key priorities, and providing perspectives on how to achieve national security objectives.
Intelligence Operations: Understanding Data, Tools, People, and Processes

Erik Kleinsmith

“Intelligence Operations” helps readers understand the various issues and considerations an intelligence professional must tackle when reviewing, planning, and managing intelligence operations, regardless of level or environment. Erik Kleinsmith opens by introducing the reader to the many defining concepts associated with intelligence, as well as the main subject of intelligence: the threat. Readers learn about the four critical components to every intelligence operation—data, tools, people, and processes—and then explore the various operational and analytic processes involved in detail.

Internal Colonialism: The Celtic Fringe in British National Development

Michael Hechter

In recent years, there have been a resurgence of separatist sentiments among national minorities in many industrial societies, including the United Kingdom. In 1997, the Scottish and Welsh had set up their own parliamentary bodies, while the tragic events in Northern Ireland continued to be a reminder of the Irish problem. These phenomena call into question widely accepted social theories, which assume that ethnic attachments in a society will wane as industrialization proceeds.

Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe, 1944-1956

Anne Applebaum

At the end of World War II, the Soviet Union found itself in control of a vast swath of territory in Eastern Europe. Stalin and his secret police set out to convert a dozen radically different countries to communism, a completely new political and moral system. Anne Applebaum describes how the Communist regimes of Eastern Europe were created and what daily life became for the people. She draws on newly opened archives, interviews, and personal accounts to portray in devastating detail the dilemmas faced by millions of individuals trying to adjust to a new way of life that challenged.

The Koreans: Who They Are, What They Want, Where Their Future Lies

Michael Breen

"The Koreans" provides an in-depth portrait of the country and its people. An early overview of the nature and values of the Korean people provides the background for a more detailed examination of the complex history of the country, in particular its division into the Communist north and pro-Western south. In this absorbing and enlightening account of the Koreans, Michael Breen provides compelling insight into the history and character of this fascinating nation.
**The Lawfare Podcast**

**Lawfare**

"The Lawfare Podcast," a weekly audio production that features the Lawfare staff in cooperation with Brookings Institute, highlights discussions with experts, policymakers, and opinion leaders at the nexus of national security, law, and policy. On issues from foreign policy, homeland security, intelligence, and cybersecurity to governance and law, Lawfare has doubled down on seriousness at a time when others are running away from it.

**Leading Intelligence Analysis: Lessons from the CIA's Analytic Front Lines**

**Bruce E. Pease**

"Leading Intelligence Analysis" introduces the fundamental managerial skills and practical tools needed to lead analysis projects conducted by individuals and teams. Bruce E. Pease provides insights into key questions, such as what kind of environment draws out a team’s best work? What brings out their creativity? When does pressure bring out their best insights? When does pressure sap their intellectual energy? What kind of team builds new knowledge rather than engaging in group-think?

**The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11**

**Lawrence Wright**

A gripping narrative that spans five decades, "The Looming Tower" explains in unprecedented detail the growth of Islamic fundamentalism, the rise of al-Qaeda, and the intelligence failures that culminated in the attacks on the World Trade Center. Lawrence Wright recreates the transformation of Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri from incompetent and idealistic soldiers in Afghanistan to leaders of the most successful terrorist group in history. He follows FBI counterterrorism chief, John O’Neill, as he uncovers the emerging danger from al-Qaeda in the 1990s and struggles to track this new threat.

**Moments of Truth: New Strategies for Today's Customer-Driven Economy**

**Jan Carlzon**

In a time of great turbulence in the airline industry, Jan Carlzon offers a prescription for corporate leadership that is backed by solid achievement. "Moments of Truth" is about the importance of responding to a changing marketplace and offers proof that the search for corporate excellence is neither monopolized by, nor restricted to, American finance and industry. Carlzon highlights the importance of the activist manager and emphasizes how forcing decision-making down to the corporate cutting edge can have a real impact.
A Moonless, Starless Sky: Ordinary Women and Men Fighting Extremism in Africa
Alexis Okeowo

Alexis Okeowo weaves together four narratives that form a powerful tapestry of modern Africa: a young couple, kidnap victims of Joseph Kony's LRA; a Mauritanian waging a lonely campaign against modern-day slavery; a women's basketball team flourishing amid war-torn Somalia; and a vigilante who takes up arms against the extremist group Boko Haram. This debut book illuminates the inner lives of ordinary people doing the extraordinary—lives that are too often hidden, underreported, or ignored by the rest of the world.

The Moscow Rules: The Secret CIA Tactics That Helped America Win the Cold War
Antonio and Joanna Mendez and Matt Baglio

"The Moscow Rules" tells the story of intelligence breakthroughs that turned the odds in America's favor. Antonio and Jonna Mendez were instrumental in creating and honing a series of tactics that allowed officers to finally be one step ahead of the KGB. These techniques included everything from elaborate Hollywood-inspired identity swaps to evasion techniques. With these new guidelines in place, and with an armory of new gadgets, the CIA managed to gain a foothold in Moscow and pull off some of the greatest intelligence operations in the history of espionage.

National Security Law Podcast
Bobby Chesney and Steve Vladeck

Featuring Professors Bobby Chesney and Steve Vladeck of the University of Texas at Austin, the "National Security Law Podcast" reviews the latest legal controversies associated with the U.S. government's national security activities and institutions.

NK News
Various hosts

Journalists at "NK News" provide 24-hour coverage on North Korea from locations around the world and get listeners behind the headlines with analysis from some of the world's leading experts on North Korea. Furthermore, a wide range of voices share their views and experiences on a weekly basis, including refugee writers Lee Je-son, Kim Yoo-sung and Kang Ji-min of the Ask a North Korean column, as well as Camila Stub (pseudonym), who has worked as a development worker in Pyongyang.
Nukes of Hazard

Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation

A biweekly roundup of the most important nuclear news and some lesser known stories on weapons of mass destruction history.

The Origins of Political Order

Francis Fukuyama

Francis Fukuyama provides a sweeping account of how today’s basic political institutions developed. The first of a two-volume work, "The Origins of Political Order" begins with politics among our primate ancestors and follows the story through the emergence of tribal societies, the growth of the first modern state in China, the beginning of the rule of law in India and the Middle East, and the development of political accountability in Europe up until the eve of the French Revolution.

Perception and Misperception in International Politics: New Edition

Robert Jervis

Since its original publication in 1976, "Perception and Misperception" has become a landmark book in its field. The updated edition includes an extensive preface by the author, reflecting on the book's lasting impact and legacy and discusses the relevant psychological research over the past 40 years. Robert Jervis describes the process of perception and then explores common forms of misperception. He tests his ideas through a number of important events in international relations from 19th- and 20th-century European history.

Putin's World: Russia Against the West and with the Rest

Angela Stent

How did Russia resurge on the world stage and play a weak hand so effectively? Is Putin a brilliant strategist? Has Russia stepped into a vacuum created by the West’s distraction with its own problems and the United States' ambivalence about acting like a superpower? “Putin's World” examines the country’s turbulent past, how it has influenced Putin, the Russians' understanding of their position on the global stage, their future ambitions, and their conviction that the West has tried to deny them a seat at the table of great powers.
Rational Security
Shane Harris

“Rational Security” is a weekly roundtable podcast, featuring Shane Harris of the Washington Post and Susan Hennessey, Tamara Cofman Wittes, and Benjamin Wittes of the Brookings Institution. It’s a lively and irreverent discussion of news, ideas, foreign policy, and law.

Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man’s Fight for Justice
Bill Browder

Sergei Magnitsky is led to a freezing cell in a Moscow prison, handcuffed to a bed rail, and beaten to death by police officers. His crime? Testifying against the Russian Interior Ministry officials involved in a conspiracy to steal $230 million of taxes paid to the state by one of the world’s most successful hedge funds. Magnitsky’s brutal killing has remained uninvestigated and unpunished. “Red Notice” is a searing expose of the concealment by Russian authorities of Magnitsky’s imprisonment and murder, slicing into the shadowy heart of the Kremlin.

The Return of Marco Polo’s World: War, Strategy, and American Interests in the Twenty-First Century
Robert D. Kaplan

In the late 13th century, Marco Polo began a decades-long trek from Venice to China along the trade route between Europe and Asia known as the Silk Road—a foundation of Kublai Khan’s sprawling empire. Now, in the 21st century, the Chinese regime has proposed a land-and-maritime Silk Road that duplicates the route Marco Polo traveled. Robert D. Kaplan outlines the timeless principles that should shape America’s role in a turbulent world that encompasses China’s challenge.

Rise of Globalism: American Foreign Policy Since 1938
Stephen E. Ambrose and Douglas G. Brinkley

Since it first appeared in 1971, “Rise to Globalism” offers a concise and informative overview of the evolution of America's foreign policy from 1938 to the present, focusing on such pivotal events as World War II, the Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam, and 9/11. Examining everything from the Iran-Contra scandal to the rise of international terrorism, the authors analyze—in light of the enormous global power of the United States—how America's economic aggressiveness, racism, and fear of communism have shaped the nation's evolving foreign policy.
In recent years, the Pentagon has elevated its concerns about Russia and China as potential military threats to the United States and its allies. But what issues could provoke actual conflict between the United States and either country? And how could such a conflict be contained before it took the world to the brink of thermonuclear catastrophe, as was feared during the Cold War? Defense expert Michael O’Hanlon wrestles with these questions in this insightful book, setting them within the broader context of hegemonic change and today’s version of great-power competition.

The true story of America’s most secret and successful aerospace operation. As recounted by Ben Rich, the operation's boss for nearly two decades, the chronicle of Lockheed’s legendary Skunk Works is a drama of Cold War confrontations and Gulf War air combat, of extraordinary feats of engineering and human achievement against fantastic odds. Filled with personal anecdotes and narratives from CIA and from Air Force pilots who flew the many classified, risky missions, this book tells of one of the most spectacular aviation triumphs of the 20th century.

Samuel P. Huntington challenges the old assumptions and ideas on the role of the military in society. Stressing the value of the military outlook for national policy, Huntington has performed the distinctive task of developing a general theory of civil–military relations and subjecting it to rigorous historical analysis.

As Europe’s colonial powers withdrew, dozens of new states were launched amid much jubilation and to the world's applause. The circumstances seemed auspicious. Africa was a continent rich in mineral resources. Its economic potential was huge. On the international stage, African states excited the attention of the world's rival power blocs; in the Cold War era, Africa was considered too valuable a prize to lose. Yet one country after another was soon mired in corruption, violence, and warfare. Few states managed to escape the downward spiral. What went wrong?
The Strategy of Conflict
Thomas C. Schelling

Against the backdrop of the nuclear arms race in the late 1950s, Thomas C. Schelling sets forth his vision of game theory as a unifying framework for the social sciences. Schelling showed that a party can strengthen its position by overtly worsening its own options, the capability to retaliate can be more useful than the ability to resist an attack, and uncertain retaliation is more credible and more efficient than certain retaliation.

Target USA
J.J. Green

Whether it’s from terrorists, anarchists, cybercriminals, or nation-states, America has a target on its back. WTOP National Security Correspondent J.J. Green investigates the threats facing the U.S., the people behind them, the agencies fighting them, and their impact on Americans.

The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State
Elizabeth C. Economy

In "The Third Revolution," eminent scholar Elizabeth C. Economy provides an incisive look at the transformative changes underway in China today. Through a wide-ranging exploration of Xi Jinping's top political, economic, and foreign policy priorities, Economy identifies the tensions, shortcomings, and successes of Xi's reform efforts during the course of his first five years in office. She also assesses the implications for the rest of the world and provides recommendations for how the United States and other countries should navigate their relationship with this vast nation in the coming years.

To Catch a Spy: The Art of Counterintelligence
James M. Olson

Foreign intelligence services are recruiting spies in our midst and stealing our secrets and technologies. James M. Olson, former chief of CIA counterintelligence, offers a wake-up call and guide for how our country can do a better job protecting its national security and trade secrets. Olson takes the reader into the world of counterintelligence as he lived it during his 30-year career in the CIA.
Trust Me, I'm Lying: Confessions of a Media Manipulator

Ryan Holiday

"Trust Me, I'm Lying" was the first book to blow the lid off the speed and force at which rumors travel online - and get "traded up" the media ecosystem until they become real headlines and generate real responses in the real world. The culprit? Marketers and professional media manipulators, encouraged by the toxic economics of the news business. Whenever you see a malicious online rumor costs a company millions, politically motivated fake news driving elections, or anonymously sourced articles becoming national conversation, someone is behind it. Often, someone like Ryan Holiday.

War on the Rocks

Ryan Evans

Join Ryan Evans as he speaks with soldiers, spies, officials, and scholars on a range of issues related to strategy, defense, and foreign affairs. Often recorded at bars in Washington and other world capitals, "War on the Rocks" is for people who want to stay informed, with a drink in hand.
"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family."

—Kofi Annan
21 Kesaris: The Untold Story of the Battle of Saragarhi
Kiran Nirvan

On September 12, 1897, 21 soldiers of the 36th Sikh Regiment stood undeterred as they guarded the post of Saragarhi against the onslaught of almost 10,000 Afghan tribesmen. What led to this battle? Who were these tribesmen, and why did they attack in such great numbers? Who were the 21 soldiers, and how did they keep the enemy at bay against all odds? Based on Colonial Era records and information provided by the 4th Sikh Battalion, "21 Kesaris" attempts to answer these questions, while paying homage to the soldiers who fought to their last breaths.

The Age of Eisenhower: America and the World in the 1950s
William I. Hitchcock

“The Age of Eisenhower” tells the story of a masterful president guiding the nation through the great crises of the 1950s, from McCarthyism and the Korean War through the advancement of civil rights for African Americans and Cold War conflicts. As he left office, Eisenhower cautioned Americans to remain alert to the dangers of a powerful military-industrial complex that could threaten their liberties. This is a portrait of a skilled leader who, despite his conservative inclinations, found a middle path through the bitter partisanship of his era.

Almost a Miracle: The American Victory in the War of Independence
John Ferling

In this gripping chronicle of America's struggle for independence, historian John Ferling transports readers to the grim realities of that war, capturing an eight-year conflict filled with heroism, suffering, cowardice, betrayal, and fierce dedication. As Ferling highlights, it was a war that America came much closer to losing than what is remembered. Gen. George Washington put it best when he said that the American victory was "little short of a standing miracle."

And No Birds Sang
Farley Mowat

Farley Mowat joined Canada's infantry in 1940 and soon earned the trust of the soldiers under his command, being known to bend army rules to secure a stout drink or find warm—if nonregulation—clothing. But, when Mowat and his regiment engaged with elite German forces in the mountains of Sicily, the optimism of their early days was replaced by despair. Mowat takes in the dark depths of war, his account of military service, and the friends he left behind in a plea for peace.
An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942-1943
Rick Atkinson

Beginning with the daring amphibious invasion in November 1942, follow the American and British armies as they fight the French in Morocco and Algeria and then take on the Germans and Italians in Tunisia. Battle by battle, an inexperienced and sometimes poorly led army gradually becomes a superb fighting force. Central to the tale are the extraordinary but fallible commanders who come to dominate the battlefield: Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley, Montgomery, and Rommel.

The Art of Intelligence: Lessons from a Life in the CIA's Clandestine Service
Henry A. Crumpton

From CIA recruiting missions in Africa to pioneering new programs like the Predator drone, from running post-9/11 missions in Afghanistan to heading up all clandestine CIA operations in the United States, Henry A. Crumpton chronicles his role in transforming the way America wages war and sheds light on issues of domestic espionage. "The Art of Intelligence" will change the way people view the CIA, domestic and foreign intelligence, and international terrorism.

Assad or We Burn the Country: How One Family's Lust for Power Destroyed Syria
Sam Dagher

Sam Dagher examines Syria's tragedy through the generational saga of the Assad and Tlass families, once deeply intertwined and now estranged in Bashar's bloody quest to preserve his father's inheritance. Drawing on personal experience in Damascus and exclusive interviews with Tlass, Dagher takes readers within palace walls to reveal the family behind the destruction of a country and the chaos of an entire region.

The Best and the Brightest
David Halberstam

David Halberstam tells the story of the Vietnam War. It is an in-depth analysis of how the whole situation in Vietnam developed from the days of French imperialism. Halberstam examines the causes that contributed to the situation that developed into the Vietnam War. French colonialism was the primary factor that set the stage for Vietnam. During the peace talks at the end of World War II, the big concern was Europe and not Indochina. The peace conference allowed the French to return to Indochina and the result was almost immediate conflict.
Beyond Survival: Building on the Hard Times—A POW's Inspiring Story

Capt. Gerald Coffee, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

"Beyond Survival" is a journey into the invincible human spirit that unites heart and mind in a compelling and unforgettable experience. Drawing from his seven years as a prisoner of war, Capt. Gerald Coffee provides timeless lessons that apply to the physical, emotional, and ethical challenges of everyday life. Proving that leadership and creativity are possible in difficult and uncertain circumstances, Coffee offers a message we can draw on in any trying situation. His story demonstrates that conviction must come from within, and in telling that story, he touches the place inside of us where growth begins.

The Billion Dollar Spy: A True Story of Cold War Espionage and Betrayal

David E. Hoffman

While driving out of the American embassy in Moscow on the evening of February 16, 1978, the chief of the CIA's Moscow station heard a knock on his car window. A man on the curb hands him an envelope with contents that stun U.S. intelligence. Details of top-secret Soviet research and developments in military technology that were unknown to the United States. In the years that followed, the man, Adolf Tolkachev, an engineer in a Soviet military design bureau, used his high-level access to hand over tens of thousands of pages of technical secrets.

The Charm School

Nelson DeMille

Something very strange—and sinister—is going on in the Russian woods at Borodino. In a place called Mrs. Ivanova's Charm School, young KGB agents are being taught by American POWs how to be model citizens of the United States. The Soviet goal—to infiltrate the United States undetected. When an unsuspecting American tourist stumbles upon this secret, he sets in motion a CIA investigation that will reveal horrifying police state savagery and superpower treachery.

Churchill: Walking with Destiny

Andrew Roberts

In "Churchill," Andrew Roberts gives readers the full and definitive Winston Churchill, from birth to lasting legacy. We think of Churchill as a hero who saved civilization from the evils of Nazism and warned of the grave crimes of Soviet communism, but Roberts's masterwork reveals that he has as much to teach us about the challenges leaders face today.
**City of Thieves**  
*David Benioff*

During the Nazis’ brutal siege of Leningrad, Lev Benioff is arrested for looting and thrown into the same cell as a handsome deserter named Kolya. Instead of being executed, Lev and Kolya are given a shot at saving their own lives by complying with an outrageous directive: secure a dozen eggs for a powerful Soviet colonel to use in his daughter’s wedding cake. In a city cut off from all supplies and suffering unbelievable deprivation, Lev and Kolya embark on a hunt through the dire lawlessness of Leningrad and behind enemy lines to find the impossible.

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**Commander in Chief: FDR’s Battle with Churchill, 1943**  
*Nigel Hamilton*

1943 was the year of Allied military counteroffensives, beating back the forces of the Axis powers in North Africa and the Pacific. In "Commander in Chief," Nigel Hamilton reveals FDR’s true role in this saga: overruling his own Joint Chiefs of Staff, ordering American airmen to ambush the Japanese Admiral Yamamoto, facing down Churchill when he attempted to abandon Allied D-Day strategy (twice). This FDR is profoundly different from the one Churchill later painted.

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**Company Commander: The Classic Infantry Memoir of World War II**  
*Charles B. MacDonald*

As a newly commissioned captain of a veteran Army regiment, Charles MacDonald’s first combat experience was war at its most hellish—the Battle of the Bulge. In this plain-spoken but eloquent narrative, we live each minute at MacDonald’s side, sharing in all of combat’s misery, terror, and drama. How this green commander gains his men’s loyalty in the snows of war-torn Europe is one of the great, true, unforgettable war stories of all time.

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**The Crucible**  
*Arthur Miller*

"The Crucible" is a fictionalized version of the Salem witch trials of 1692 and tells the story of a group of young women who falsely accuse other villagers of witchcraft. The accusations and ensuing trials push the village into hysteria, which results in the arrest of 200 villagers and the deaths of 19. Written by American playwright Arthur Miller, who was wrongly accused of communism and un-American activities during the McCarthyism era, this play is an an allegory, revealing the political and moral parallels between the Salem witch trials and the McCarthy trials.
**Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan**

*Bob Grandin*

For the first time, those in command of Delta Company share their memories of the most significant battle fought by Australians in Vietnam, the Battle of Long Tan. They describe what brought them there and how Company Commander Harry Smith drove them to become one of the most outstanding units in the Australian forces. The valor of those in the battle was never recognized. The ongoing efforts to right the wrongs perpetrated in the wake of the battle draw the reader into a compelling dialogue on the aftermath of Vietnam.

**Dereliction of Duty: Johnson, McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies That Led to Vietnam**

*H.R. McMaster*

"Dereliction of Duty" is a stunning analysis of how and why the United States became involved in an all-out and disastrous war in Southeast Asia. Based on transcripts and personal accounts of crucial meetings, confrontations, and decisions, this is the only book that recreates what happened and why. H.R. McMaster pinpoints the policies and decisions that got the United States into the morass and reveals who made these decisions and the motives behind them, disproving the published theories of other historians and excuses of the participants.

**Destined to Witness: Growing up Black in Nazi Germany**

*Hans J. Massaquoi*

This is a story of the unexpected. The son of a prominent African and a German nurse, Hans J. Massaquoi remained behind with his mother when Hitler came to power after his father returned to Liberia. Like other German boys, Massaquoi went to school; like other German boys, he swiftly fell under the Führer's spell. He was crushed to learn that, as a black child, he was ineligible for the Hitler Youth. His path to a secondary education and an eventual profession was blocked. He then lived in fear that, at any moment, he might hear the Gestapo at the door—or Allied bombs falling on his home.

**Disaster in Korea: The Chinese Confront MacArthur**

*Lt. Col. Roy E. Appleman, U.S. Army (Ret.)*

"Disaster in Korea" fills a vital gap in the history of the U.S. armed forces and the Korean War. Through meticulous research, leading Korean War historian Roy E. Appleman tells the story of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's November 1950 attack to the Yalu River, an attack that was repulsed by 200,000 Chinese "volunteer" infantry. A candid and compelling story, “Disaster in Korea” is full of lessons for battlefield commanders.
**East of Chosin: Entrapment and Breakout in Korea, 1950**

*Lt. Col. Roy E. Appleman, U.S. Army (Ret.)*

With the successful Inchon Landing behind him, Gen. Douglas MacArthur planned the last major offensive of what was to be a "brief conflict" the drive to push the North Koreans across the Yalu River into Manchuria. As U.S. forces assembled at Chosin Reservoir to cut behind the North Korean forces, blocking the planned march to Manchuria, Roy E. Appleman describes the tragic fate of the troops of the 31st Regimental Combat Team and presents the physical conditions, attitudes, and command decisions that doomed them.

**Escaping the Trap: The U.S. Army X Corps in Northeast Korea, 1950**

*Lt. Col. Roy E. Appleman, U.S. Army (Ret.)*

“Escaping the Trap,” tells what happened when U.S. X Corps discovered that the Chinese had crossed the Yalu unseen and marched rapidly to Chosin Reservoir, where they landed a surprise attack against the 1st Marine Division and the army's 31st Regimental Combat Team of the 7th Infantry Division. The attack in late November 1950 virtually annihilated the 31st RCT east of Chosin, while the 1st Marine Division made an escape through treacherous terrain and a 40-mile roadblock, pushing on to the coast and the monumental evacuation of X Corps from North Korea.

**Everything is Illuminated**

*Jonathan Safran Foer*

“Everything is Illuminated” follows a young man—also named Jonathan Safran Foer—as he sets out to find the woman who may or may not have saved his grandfather from the Nazis. Accompanied by an old man haunted by memories of the war; an amorous dog named Sammy Davis, Junior, Junior; and the unforgettable Alex, a young Ukrainian translator who speaks in a sublimely butchered English, Jonathan is led on a quixotic journey over a devastated landscape and into an unexpected past.

**FBI Miami Firefight: Five Minutes That Changed the Bureau**

*Edmundo and Elizabeth Mireles*

On April 11, 1986 in Miami, Florida, FBI agents and two murderous bank robbers engaged in a five-minute gunfight, yielding 150 rounds fired. When the firefight was over, nine out of the 10 participants were shot, with the bank robbers and two FBI agents dead. This monumental event changed law enforcement training, equipment, and tactics throughout the U.S., and is known as the “Five Minutes that Changed the Bureau.”
From Colony to Superpower: U.S. Foreign Relations Since 1776
George C. Herring

George C. Herring tells a story of successes and failures that illuminates the central importance of foreign relations to the existence and survival of the nation and highlights its ongoing impact on the lives of ordinary citizens. While policymakers defined American interests broadly, America's expansion as a nation owes much to the adventurers and explorers; the sea captains, merchants, and captains of industry; and the missionaries and diplomats who discovered or charted new lands, developed new avenues of commerce, and established and defended the nation's interests in foreign lands.

Good Hunting: An American Spymaster's Story
Jack Devine

"Good Hunting" is the spellbinding memoir of Jake Devine's time in the CIA, where he served for more than 30 years, rising to become the acting deputy director of operations. This is a story of intrigue and high-stakes maneuvering, all the more gripping when the fate of our geopolitical order hangs in the balance. But, this book also sounds a warning to our nation's decision-makers. Covert operations, not costly and devastating full-scale interventions, are the best safeguard of America's interests worldwide.

Grant
Ron Chernow

Ulysses S. Grant's life has typically been misunderstood. All too often, he is caricatured as a chronic loser and inept businessman, fond of drinking to excess, or as the triumphant but brutal Union general of the Civil War or as a credulous and hapless president whose tenure came to symbolize the worst excesses of the Gilded Age. These stereotypes don't come close to capturing his spirit and the sheer magnitude of his monumental accomplishments.

Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies
Jared Diamond

Jared Diamond argues that geographical and environmental factors shaped the modern world. Societies that had a head start in food production advanced beyond the hunter-gatherer stage, developed religion—as well as nasty germs and potent weapons of war—and adventured on sea and land to conquer and decimate preliterate cultures. A major advance in our understanding of human societies, “Guns, Germs, and Steel” chronicles the way that the modern world came to be and stunningly dismantles racially based theories of human history.
**Hardcore History**

*Dan Carlin*

Dan Carlin’s work weaves historical information with deep questions and Twilight Zone-style twists to help illustrate the power and continuing relevance of the past. Drama, extremes, empathy, and vivid examples of both the highs and lows of humanity dominate the narrative. It’s a trademark mix of elements that has been entertaining listeners since 2005.

**Heirs of the Founders**

*H.W. Brands*

In the early 1800s, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, and John Calhoun strode into Congress onto the national stage. Together, these men took the country to war, battled one another for the presidency, and tasked themselves to finish the work of the Founding Fathers. Dramatic duels, fierce debates, scandal, and politics marked their time. Yet, each sought to remedy the two glaring flaws in the Constitution: its refusal to specify where authority rested, with the states or the nation, and its unwillingness to address the essential incompatibility of republicanism and slavery.

**HHhH**

*Laurent Binet*

In Laurent Binet's mesmerizing debut, we follow Jozef Gabcík and Jan Kubiš from their dramatic escape from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia to their fatal attack on Heydrich and their own brutal deaths in the basement of a Prague church. A seamless blend of memory, actuality, and Binet's own remarkable imagination, "HHhH" is at once thrilling and intellectually engrossing.

**In Our Own Words: Extraordinary Speeches of the American Century**

*Edited by Senator Robert Torricelli and Andrew Carroll*

This collection of American oratory is the most comprehensive anthology of its kind. It's a record of 20th-century America, captured in the words that inspired and infuriated, electrified and galvanized people. Decade by decade, history unfolds in the famous and infamous expressions from all walks of life: poets and politicians, artists and astronauts, soldiers and sports legends, preachers and pacifists. "In Our Own Words" bears witness to the forces that swept our nation—two world wars, prohibition, the Depression, the Cold War, the Civil Rights era, Vietnam, and beyond.
In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Trust, and an American Family in Hitler’s Berlin

Erik Larson

William Dodd became America’s first ambassador to Hitler’s Germany in a year that proved to be a turning point in history. Suffused with a tense atmosphere and with unforgettable portraits of the bizarre Goring and the expectedly charming—and sinister—Goebbels, “In the Garden of Beasts” lends an eyewitness perspective on events in real time, revealing an era of surprising nuance and complexity. The result is a dazzling, addictively readable work that speaks volumes about why the world did not recognize the grave threat posed by Hitler.

International Spy Museum: Spycast

Dr. Vince Houghton

Each week, the International Spy Museum offers a new "SpyCast," featuring interviews and programs with ex-spies, intelligence experts, and espionage scholars. The "SpyCast" is hosted by Dr. Vince Houghton, historian and curator at the International Spy Museum.

Joe Rochefort’s War: The Odyssey of the Codebreaker Who Outwitted Yamamoto at Midway

Elliot Carlson

Elliot Carlson brings together the threads of Capt. Joe Rochefort’s life and career, beginning with his enlistment in the U.S. Navy in 1918 through his days as an officer rising through the ranks. He finds himself in Washington, heading the Navy’s codebreaking desk at age 25, and then assigned to Tokyo to learn Japanese. Carlson highlights Rochefort’s experiences at Station Hypo, the Navy’s decrypt unit at Pearl Harbor, and his key role in breaking the Japanese Navy’s main code before the Battle of Midway.

The Junior Officers’ Reading Club: Killing Time and Fighting Wars

Patrick Hennessey

Attempting to stave off the tedium and pressures of military life in Iraq’s desert, Patrick Hennessey and friends from the military academy formed the Junior Officers’ Reading Club. When he reached Afghanistan, and the rest of the club are scattered across the Middle East, they are no longer overconfident recruits, hungering for action and glory. Hennessey captures how boys grow into men amid the frenetic, violence, frequent boredom, and almost overwhelming responsibilities that frame a soldier’s experience and the way we fight today.
The Last Man on the Moon: Astronaut Eugene Cernan and America’s Race in Space

Eugene Cernan with Don Davis

Eugene Cernan was a unique American who came of age as an astronaut during the most exciting and dangerous decade of spaceflight. His career spanned the entire Gemini and Apollo programs, from being the first person to spacewalk all the way around our world to the moment when he left man’s last footprint on the Moon as commander of Apollo 17.

Lawrence in Arabia

Scott Anderson

The Arab Revolt against the Turks in World War I was, in the words of T. E. Lawrence, “a sideshow of a sideshow.” As a result, the conflict was shaped to a remarkable degree by a small handful of adventurers and low-level officers far removed from the corridors of power.

Leonardo Da Vinci

Walter Isaacson

Based on thousands of pages from Leonardo da Vinci’s notebooks and new discoveries about his life and work, Walter Isaacson reveals da Vinci in a way that connects his art to his science. In doing so, he shows how da Vinci’s genius was based on skills we can improve in ourselves, such as passionate curiosity, careful observation, and an imagination so playful that it flirted with fantasy.

Lone Survivor

Marcus Luttrell

This is the story of the only survivor of Operation Redwing, SEAL team leader Marcus Luttrell, and the extraordinary firefight that led to the largest loss of life in American Navy SEAL history. His squadmates fought valiantly beside him until he was the only one left alive, blasted by an RPG into a place where his pursuers could not find him. Over the next four days, terribly injured and presumed dead, Luttrell crawled for miles through the mountains and was taken in by sympathetic villagers who risked their lives to keep him safe from surrounding Taliban warriors.
Long Range Desert Group

W.B. Kennedy Shaw

Throughout the fighting in North Africa in World War II no group excelled in the role of Special Forces more than the Long Range Desert Group. W.B. Kennedy Shaw, a British desert explorer, archaeologist, and soldier, served as an intelligence officer with this remarkable British unit and recounts their daring exploits in special missions against Rommel's Afrika Korps.

The Mantle of Command: FDR at War, 1941-1942

Nigel Hamilton

"The Mantle of Command" offers a radical new perspective on Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s masterful—and underappreciated—leadership of the Allied war effort. After the disaster of Pearl Harbor, we see Roosevelt devising a global strategy that will defeat Hitler and the Japanese, rescue Churchill and the British people, and quell a near insurrection of his own American generals and War Department. All things drive toward Operation Torch—the invasion of French Northwest Africa—with the outcome of the war hanging in the balance.

Morale: A Study of Men and Courage

John Baynes

A classic study of the 2nd Scottish Rifles in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in 1915 during the Great War. John Baynes takes a look at the morale of being in the military and an even greater look at the morale in combat, especially on the Western Front. With the enemy approaching, how do the officers, NCOs, and the men they lead gain ground and come out the other side to stop the approach?

The Myth and Reality of German Warfare

Gerhard P. Gross

Gerhard P. Gross provides a comprehensive examination of the development and failure of German operational thinking over a period of more than a century. He analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of five different armies, from the mid-19th century through the early days of NATO. Essential reading for military historians and strategists, this innovative work dismantles cherished myths and offers new insights into Germany's failed attempts to become a global power through military means.
No Easy Day
Mark Owen

Operator Mark Owen of the U.S. Naval Special Warfare Development Group—known as SEAL Team Six—has been a part of some of the most memorable special operations in history, as well as countless missions that never made headlines. In “No Easy Day,” Owen takes readers into the War on Terror and details the formation of the most elite units in the military. With boots-on-the-ground detail, Owen describes several missions that illustrate the life and work of a SEAL and the evolution of the team after the events of September 11.

Not a Good Day to Die: The Untold Story of Operation Anaconda
Sean Naylor

On March 2, 2002, America’s first major battle of the 21st century began. More than 200 soldiers of the 101st Airborne and 10th Mountain Division flew into Afghanistan’s Shah-i-Kot valley. They were about to pay a bloody price for strategic, high-level miscalculations that underestimated the enemy’s strength and willingness to fight. Sean Naylor, details the failures of military intelligence and planning, portraying the astonishing heroism of these young, untested soldiers.

Nuking the Moon: And Other Intelligence Schemes and Military Plots Best Left on the Drawing Board
Vince Houghton

In “Nuking the Moon,” Vince Houghton proves that abandoned plans can be just as illuminating—and every bit as entertaining—as the ones that made it. Vividly capturing the fascinating stories of how 21 plans from World War II and the Cold War went from conception, planning, and testing to cancellation, Houghton explores what happens when innovation meets desperation. For every plan as good as D-Day, there’s a scheme to strap bombs to bats or dig a spy tunnel underneath the Soviet embassy.

The Only Thing Worth Dying For: How Eleven Green Berets Fought for a New Afghanistan
Eric Blehm

“The Only Thing Worth Dying For” chronicles the most important mission in the early days of the Global War on Terror, when the men on the ground knew little about the enemy—and their commanders in Washington knew even less. With access to surviving members of Operational Detachment Alpha 574, key war planners, and Hamid Karzai, Eric Blehm narrates a story of uncommon bravery and terrible sacrifice.
The Operator: Firing the Shots that Killed Osama bin Laden and My Years as a SEAL Team Warrior

Robert O'Neill

Stirringly evocative, thought provoking, and often jaw dropping, “The Operator” highlights Robert O'Neill’s awe-inspiring, 400-mission career that included his involvement in attempts to rescue “Lone Survivor” Marcus Luttrell and abducted-by-Somali-pirates Capt. Richard Phillips, and culminated in those famous three shots that dispatched the world's most wanted terrorist, Osama bin Laden.

The Orphan Master's Son

Adam Johnson

“The Orphan Master's Son” follows a young man's journey through the icy waters, dark tunnels, and eerie spy chambers of the world's most mysterious dictatorship, North Korea. A mix of breathless thriller, story of innocence lost, and of romantic love, “The Orphan Master's Son” is a riveting portrait of a world heretofore hidden from view: a North Korea rife with hunger, corruption, and casual cruelty but also camaraderie and stolen moments of beauty and love.

Philosophize This!

Stephen West

Beginner friendly if listened to in order. "Philosophize This!" is for anyone interested in an educational podcast about philosophy, and where you don't need to be a graduate-level student to understand it. Stephen West breaks down and explains the thinkers and ideas that forged the world we live in now.

Ridgway Duels for Korea

Lt. Col. Roy Appleman, U.S. Army (Ret.)

Based on unit records, Chinese military reports, and interviews, this combat history covers battlefield events from Gen. Matthew Ridgway's assumption of command in Korea in December 1950 to the beginning of truce talks in July 1951. When he took over, U.N. forces were in full retreat, being driven southward by overwhelming numbers of Chinese and North Korean troops. The author describes how Ridgway provided the strategy and leadership that kept the Americans from quitting Korea altogether, and how he gradually transformed a defeated and demoralized army into a strong, motivated fighting force.
Rubicon: The Last Years of the Roman Republic

Tom Holland

In 49 B.C., Julius Caesar crossed a small river called the Rubicon and plunged Rome into civil war. Tom Holland’s enthralling account tells the story of Caesar’s generation, witness to the twilight of the Republic, and its bloody transformation into an empire. From Cicero, Spartacus, and Brutus, to Cleopatra, Virgil, and Augustus, here are some of the most legendary figures in history brought to life. “Rubicon” is not only an engrossing history of this pivotal era but a uniquely resonant portrait of a great civilization in all its extremes of self-sacrifice and rivalry, decadence and catastrophe, intrigue, war, and world-shaking ambition.

Sacred Duty: A Soldier’s Tour at Arlington National Cemetery

Sen. Tom Cotton

In an extraordinary journey behind the scenes of Arlington National Cemetery, Sen. Tom Cotton offers an intimate and inspiring portrait of the "Old Guard,” the revered U.S. Army unit, whose mission is to honor our country’s fallen heroes. Its soldiers hold themselves to the standard of perfection in sweltering heat, frigid cold, and driving rain. Whether honoring a legendary general or a humble private, the Old Guard has embodied the ideals of honor and sacrifice across our nation’s history.

The Secret War: Spies, Ciphers, and Guerrillas 1939-1945

Max Hastings

There were two Second World Wars. One was on the battlefields and another conducted by men and women, few of whom ever fired a weapon in anger but whose efforts vastly influenced the conflict. "The Secret War" examines that other war waged by British, American, German, Russian, and Japanese intelligence-gathering personnel. Moving chronologically through the conflict, Max Hastings charts the successes and failures of Allied and Axis forces, espionage, and counterespionage.

Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East

Michael B. Oren

Extraordinary personalities—Moshe Dayan, Gamal Abdul Nasser, Lyndon Johnson, and Alexei Kosygin—rose and toppled from power as a result of the Six-Day War, also known as the 167 Arab-Israeli War. Borders were redrawn. Daring strategies brilliantly succeeded or disastrously failed in a matter of hours. The balance of power changed—in the Middle East and in the world.
Sons and Soldiers

Bruce Henderson

Beginning with the rise of Hitler’s Nazi party, Bruce Henderson captures the heartbreaking stories of Jewish parents sending their sons away to uncertain futures in America. Henderson describes how these boys became men and were recruited into the U.S. Army and how their mastery of the German language and psyche were put to use. Known as the “Ritchie Boys,” these men knew what would happen to them if captured. Yet, they leapt at the opportunity to join every major combat unit in Europe and help win the war.

South to the Naktong, North to the Yalu

Lt. Col. Roy E. Appleman, U.S. Army (Ret.)

In an account of the first five months of the Korean War, veteran and historian Lt. Col. Roy E. Appleman describes the withdrawal to the Pusan perimeter, MacArthur’s landing at Inchon and drive northward that crushed the North Koreans, and the stiffening of enemy resistance as the United Nations forces neared the Manchurian border.

A Spy at the Heart of the Third Reich

Lucas Delattre

In 1943, a young official from the German foreign ministry contacted Allen Dulles, an OSS officer in Switzerland who would later head the Central Intelligence Agency. That man was Fritz Kolbe, who decided to betray his country after years opposing Nazism. While Dulles was skeptical, he eventually admitted, “No single diplomat abroad, of whatever rank, could have got his hands on so much information as did this man; he was one of my most valuable agents during World War II.

A Time for Trumpets: The Untold Story of the Battle of the Bulge

Charles B. MacDonald

In December 1944, the vanguard of three German armies, totaling half a million men, attacked U.S. forces in the Ardennes region of Belgium and Luxembourg, achieving what had been considered impossible—total surprise. In the most abysmal failure of battlefield intelligence, 600,000 American soldiers found themselves facing Hitler’s last desperate effort of the war. The confrontation that ensued is considered the greatest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army. The Battle of the Bulge is a triumph of American ingenuity and dedication to win.
A Time to Betray: The Astonishing Double Life of a CIA Agent Inside the Revolutionary Guards of Iran
Reza Kahlili

Reza Kahlili grew up in Tehran surrounded by his close-knit family and friends. But, the enlightened Iran of his youth vanished forever when the revolution of 1979 ushered in Ayatollah Khomeini’s dark age of religious fundamentalism. Clinging to the hope of a Persian Renaissance, Reza joined the Ayatollah’s elite Revolutionary Guards. As Khomeini’s tyrannies unfolded, as fellow countrymen turned on each other, and after the personal horrors he witnessed firsthand, a disillusioned Kahlili left for America to help CIA in the dangerous game of spying on what was once his home.

Trabelin’ On: The Slave Journey to an Afro-Baptist Faith
Mechal Sobel

Through a fascinating study of the religious history of slaves and free blacks in antebellum America, Mechal Sobel describes how Africans brought their worldviews into North America. There, eventually, under the tremendous pressures and hardships of chattel slavery, they created a coherent faith that preserved and revitalized crucial African understandings and usages regarding spirit and soul-travels, while melding them with Christian understandings of Jesus and individual salvation.

Unbroken
Laura Hillenbrand

On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Force bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War.

Vimy
Pierre Berton

On Easter Monday in 1917, with a blizzard blowing in their faces, the four divisions of the Canadian Corps in France seized and held the best-defended German bastion on the Western Front—the muddy scarp of Vimy Ridge. The British had failed to take the ridge, and so had the French, who had lost 150,000 men in the attempt. Yet, these magnificent colonial troops did so at the cost of 10,000 casualties. This is their story.
War and Peace: FDR's Final Odyssey, D-Day to Yalta, 1943-1945

Nigel Hamilton

Seventy-five years after the D-Day landings, we finally get to see who was responsible for rescuing, and insisting upon, the great American-led invasion of France in June 1944. As FDR's D-Day triumph turns to personal tragedy, the public watches with heartbreaking compassion as his disease progressed and how, in the months left as U.S. commander in chief, the dying president attempted to prepare the United Nations for an American-backed, postwar world order. Now we know that, even on his deathbed, FDR was the war's great visionary.

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration

Isabel Wilkerson

Isabel Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life. From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America. Wilkerson compares this epic migration to the migrations of other peoples in history. She interviewed more than a thousand people and gained access to new data and official records to write this definitive and vividly dramatic account of how these American journeys unfolded, altering our cities, our country, and ourselves.

The Washington War: FDR's Inner Circle and the Politics of Power That Won World War II

James Lacey

The inside story of how FDR and the towering personalities around him waged war in the corridors of Washington, D.C., to secure ultimate victory on the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific. “The Washington War” is the story of how the Second World War was fought and won in the capital’s halls of power—and how the United States, which in December 1941 had a nominal army and a decimated naval fleet, was able to fling huge forces onto the European continent and shatter Imperial Japan’s Pacific strongholds.

We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History

John Lewis Gaddis

Did the Soviet Union want world revolution? Why did the USSR send missiles to Cuba? What made the Cold War last as long as it did? The end of the Cold War makes it possible, for the first time, to begin writing its history from an international perspective. Based on the latest findings of Cold War historians and extensive research in American archives as well as the recently opened archives in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and China, “We Now Know” provides a vividly written, eye-opening account of the Cold War during the years from the end of World War II to its most dangerous moment, the Cuban Missile Crisis.
The White Mouse

Nancy Wake

The Gestapo called her the White Mouse. Nancy Wake, an Australian who became one of the most highly decorated women of World War II, tells her own story. After living and working in Paris in the 1930s, Nancy Wake married a wealthy Frenchman and settled in Marseilles. Her idyllic new life was ended by World War II. Eventually, Nancy had to escape from France to avoid capture by the Gestapo.

Widows: Four American Spies, the Wives They Left Behind, and the KGB’s Crippling of American Intelligence

William R. Corson, Susan B. Trento, and Joseph J. Trento

Four U.S. intelligence agents play a high-stakes game of international double-crossing, blackmail, and deceit. One by one, they disappear. And no one, not even their widows or the U.S. public, were ever told the truth. Now, for the first time, three experienced investigators present a shocking case, based on hundreds of interviews and years of research, against the U.S. intelligence establishment. A case of incompetence, cover-up, and even Soviet penetration. “Widows” is a harrowing journey into a world of espionage, where no one is what they seem.

A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II

Sonia Purnell

In 1942, the Gestapo sent out an urgent transmission: “She is the most dangerous of all Allied spies. We must find and destroy her.” The target was Virginia Hall, a Baltimore socialite who talked her way into Special Operations Executive, the spy organization dubbed Winston Churchill’s “Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare.” She became the first Allied woman deployed behind enemy lines and—despite her prosthetic leg—helped to light the flame of the French Resistance, revolutionizing secret warfare.

Women’s War: Fighting and Surviving the American Civil War

Stephanie McCurry

Stephanie McCurry reveals the vital, and sometimes confounding, roles women played on and off the battlefield during the Civil War. Clara Judd, a Confederate spy whose imprisonment for treason sparked heated debates, defying the principle of civilian immunity and leading to changes. Hundreds of thousands of enslaved women escaped across Union lines, upending emancipation policies that extended only to enslaved men. Confederate Grande Dame Gertrude Thomas wrestled with her loss of status and of her former slaves. War, emancipation, and economic devastation affected her family and her life.
LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

“Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.”

—General George S. Patton
The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership: Follow Them and People Will Follow You

John C. Maxwell

“The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership” combines insights from John C. Maxwell’s 40-plus years of leadership, with observations from the worlds of business, politics, sports, religion, and the military. The revised edition of this New York Times’ bestseller includes Maxwell’s timeless, expert advice on leadership, along with fresh, relevant stories and practical application in each chapter.

The Accidental Creative

Todd Henry

"The Accidental Creative" shares how to build practical, everyday practices that help you stay prolific, brilliant, and healthy. Todd Henry provides a twice-weekly tips and interviews with top thinkers, leaders, and artists for over a decade.

Athena Rising: How and Why Men Should Mentor Women

W. Brad Johnson and David G. Smith

Strong, mentoring relationships transform individuals and entire organizations. Organizations that retain and promote top talent—both female and male—are more likely to thrive. But, the mentoring landscape is unequal. Evidence consistently shows that women face more barriers in securing mentorships than men, and when they do find a mentor, they reap a narrower range of career and psychological benefits. This is a book for men about how to mentor women deliberately and effectively. It is a no-nonsense manual for helping men of all institutions to become excellent mentors to women.

Becoming Batman: The Possibility of a Superhero

E. Paul Zehr

E. Paul Zehr discusses the physical training necessary to maintain bad-guy-fighting readiness while relating the science underlying this process, from strength conditioning to the cognitive changes a person would endure in undertaking such a regimen. In probing what a real-life Batman could achieve, Zehr considers the level of punishment a fit and trained person could handle, how hard and fast such a person could punch and kick, and the number of adversaries that individual could dispatch. He also tells us what it would be like to fight while wearing the Batsuit and the amount of food someone needs to consume each day to maintain vigilance as Gotham City’s dark knight.
Beyond the To-Do-List

Erik Fisher

Learn how to choose the right projects, tasks, and goals in work and life. Go beyond the to-do-list. Erik Fisher talks with people on all aspects of productivity, including getting the right work done, getting good work done, and the true end goal of productivity—living a meaningful life.

The Big Moo: Stop Trying to be Perfect and Start Trying to be Remarkable

The Group of 33

Most organizations are stuck in a rut. On one hand, they understand all the good things that will come with growth. On the other, they’re petrified that growth means change, and change means risk, and risk means death. Nobody wants to screw up and ruin a good thing, so most companies (and individuals) just keep trying to be perfect at the things they’ve always done.

A Book of Five Rings

Miyamoto Musashi

In "A Book of Five Rings," Miyamoto Musashi takes the reader into a world filled to the brim with devotion, self-respect, discipline, honesty, and purity of thought. Written originally for warriors and samurai in a completely different time and culture, Musashi’s book provides a remarkable source of inspiration for self-development today. While some of his guidelines are not directly applicable in our time and age, those about striving to achieve improvement on the inside as well as the outside couldn't be more on target.

Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead

Jim Mattis and Bing West

“Call Sign Chaos” is the account of Jim Mattis’ storied career, from wide-ranging leadership roles in three wars to commanding a quarter of a million troops across the Middle East. Along the way, Mattis recounts his foundational experiences as a leader, extracting the lessons he has learned about the nature of warfighting and peacemaking, the importance of allies, and the strategic dilemmas—and short-sighted thinking—now facing our nation. He makes it clear why America must return to a strategic footing so as not to continue winning battles but fighting inconclusive wars.
**Can't Hurt Me: Master Your Mind and Defy the Odds**

*David Goggins*

For David Goggins, childhood was a nightmare—poverty, prejudice, and physical abuse colored his days and haunted his nights. But through self-discipline, mental toughness, and hard work, Goggins transformed himself from a depressed, overweight young man with no future into a U.S. armed forces icon and one of the world's top endurance athletes. The only man in history to complete elite training as a Navy SEAL, Army Ranger, and Air Force tactical air controller, he went on to set records in numerous endurance events, inspiring Outside magazine to name him "The Fittest (Real) Man in America."

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**Change Your Questions, Change Your Life**

*Marilee Adams*

“Change Your Questions, Change Your Life” shows readers how to consistently choose the questions that can lead them to success, both personally and professionally. This technique, called "Questions Thinking," stimulates innovation, accelerates productivity, and creates more rewarding relationships. Questions are at the core of how we listen, behave, think, and relate. Virtually everything we think and do is generated by questions. The future begins with our thinking, represented by the questions we ask ourselves.

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**The Culture Code: The Secrets of Highly Successful Groups**

*Daniel Coyle*

“The Culture Code” offers a roadmap for creating an environment where innovation flourishes, problems get solved, and expectations are exceeded. Culture is not something you are—it’s something you do. No matter the size of your group or your goal, this book can teach you the principles of cultural chemistry that transform individuals into teams that can accomplish amazing things together.

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**Dare to Lead: Brave Work. Tough Conversations. Whole Hearts.**

*Brené Brown*

When we dare to lead, we don't pretend to have the right answers; we stay curious and ask the right questions. We don't see power as finite and hoard it; we know that power becomes infinite when we share it with others. We don't avoid difficult conversations and situations; we lean into vulnerability when it's necessary to do good work. Daring leadership in a culture that's defined by scarcity, fear, and uncertainty requires skill-building around traits that are deeply and uniquely human.
David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants
Malcolm Gladwell
Malcolm Gladwell challenges how we think about obstacles and disadvantages, offering a new interpretation of what it means to be discriminated against, or cope with a disability, or lose a parent, or attend a mediocre school, or suffer from any number of other apparent setbacks. Gladwell begins with the real story of what happened between the giant and the shepherd boy those many years ago.

Developing the Leader Within You 2.0
John C. Maxwell
John C. Maxwell returns to his bestselling book to include the leadership insights and practices he has learned in the decades since the book first appeared. “Developing the Leader Within You 2.0” updates on Maxwell’s principles for inspiring, motivating, and influencing others from any type of leadership position. These foundational principles and promises provide new readers, and longtime fans of the original book, the necessary wisdom to help any leader and organization succeed in fostering integrity, self-discipline, and effecting positive change.

A Dog Called Hope: A Wounded Warrior and the Service Dog Who Saved Him
Jason Morgan and Damien Lewis
“A Dog Called Hope” is the incredible story of a remarkable service dog who brought a devastated warrior back from the brink. It is the story of one funny, lovable dog’s power to heal a family and teach a wounded man how to be a true father. It is the story of an amazing dog with boundless loyalty who built bridges between his wheelchair-bound battle buddy and the rest of able-bodied humankind. It is the story of how one very special dog gave a man’s life true meaning. Humorous, intensely moving, and uplifting, Jason and Napa’s heartwarming tale will brighten any day and lift every heart.

Ethical Leadership: A Primer
Robert M. McManus, Stanley J. Ward, and Alexandra K. Perry
“Ethical Leadership” presents a number of leadership models that claim an ethical component. By providing a consistent case analysis based on the Five Components of Leadership Model, readers benefit from a uniform approach to evaluating ethical leadership. Conclusions include the importance of drawing from multiple ethical and leadership perspectives, moving away from exclusively leader-centric approaches to ethical leadership, the importance of asking questions to maximize self-awareness, and considering multiple points of view whenever addressing an ethical conundrum.
Faster, Fewer, Better Emails  
*Dianna Booher*

Today, most business writing is email writing. We handle even our most important customer transactions, internal operations, and supplier partnerships solely by email. Yet many of us still struggle to write emails that get results. How we handle emails has a large impact on the trajectory of our career. Emails can build or destroy credibility, clarify or confuse situations for our co-workers and customers, and reduce or increase security risks and legal liabilities. This book will help you master your emails and stand out as a clear, credible communicator. After all, clear, credible communicators become leaders in every industry.

The Golden Age: 101 Thoughts on Business, Entrepreneurship, Investing & Technology  
*Peter Weishaput*

In "The Golden Age," Peter Weishaput offers 101 quick lessons on business, entrepreneurship, investing, and technology from some of the leading minds of our times. Learn why this is the best time in the history of the world to be alive. Understand why this truly is the golden age. Discover how to use psychology and technology to achieve your dreams.

Good Life Project  
*Jonathan Fields*

A weekly podcast that shares inspirational, intimate, and unfiltered conversations about living a fully engaged, fiercely connected, and purpose-drenched life. From iconic world-shakers like Elizabeth Gilbert, Brené Brown, Sir Ken Robinson, Seth Godin, and Gretchen Rubin to everyday guests, every story matters.

Hidden Brain  
*Shankar Vedantam*

Shankar Vedantam uses science and storytelling to reveal the unconscious patterns that drive human behavior, shape our choices, and direct our relationships.
How the Way We Talk Can Change the Way We Work: Seven Languages for Transformation
Lisa Laskow Lahey and Robert Kegan

Why is the gap so great between our hopes, our intentions, even our decisions—and what we are actually able to bring about? What can we do to transform this troubling reality? Harvard psychologists Robert Kegan and Lisa Laskow Lahey take us on a carefully guided journey designed to help answer these very questions.

How to be an Inclusive Leader: Creating Trust, Cooperation, and Community Across Differences
Jennifer Brown

Drawing on years of work with many leading organizations, Jennifer Brown shows what leaders at any level can do to spark real change. She guides readers through the "Inclusive Leader Continuum," a set of four developmental stages: unaware, aware, active, and advocate. Brown describes the hallmarks of each stage, the behaviors and mind-sets that inform it, and what listeners can do to keep progressing. Whether you're a powerful CEO or a new employee without direct reports, there are actions you can take that can drastically change the day-to-day reality for your colleagues and the trajectory of your organization.

How to be Awesome at Your Job
Pete Mockaitis

Each week, Pete Mockaitis interviews thought-leaders and results-getters to discover specific, actionable insights that boost work performance. Their stories and advice sharpen the universal skills every professional needs to flourish at work.

Humble Inquiry: The Gentle Art of Asking Instead of Telling
Edgar H. Schien

Communication is essential in a healthy organization. But, all too often, when we interact with people, especially those who report to us, we simply tell them what we think they need to know. This shuts them down. To generate bold new ideas, to avoid disastrous mistakes, to develop agility and flexibility, we need to practice humble inquiry.
In “Influence Without Authority,” leadership gurus Allan R. Cohen and David L. Bradford explain how to get cooperation from those you have no official authority over by offering them help in the form of the "currencies" they value. This book gives you powerful techniques for cutting through interpersonal and interdepartmental barriers and motivating people to lend you their support, time, and resources.

Through his experiences heading intelligence for the Supreme Allied Command during World War II, Maj. Gen. Sir Kenneth Strong stresses the unspectacular, actually scholarly and rather social, aspects of his profession. In doing so, he offers insights into the careers of top military leadership as he relates the circumstances of several important military, decisions including the Normandy invasion and the surrender of Italy.

Retired Navy SEAL Jocko Willink and Echo Charles discuss discipline and leadership in business, war, relationships, and everyday life. The point of this podcast is to help you become an effective and efficient communicator. Joe McCormack tackles many of the most pressing issues that people face in a world flooded by information, interruptions, and distractions. The promise is that you and your ideas can stand out consistently. Hope you enjoy. (Just Saying)
The Knowledge Project with Shane Parrish

"The Knowledge Project" is for anyone who want to better understand themselves, others, and the world around them. Together with host Shane Parrish, you'll uncover the timeless ideas, mental models, stories, and life lessons that will help you master what other people have already figured out.

Lead to Win

Short-term wins are easy. Sustained achievement is another story. Discover how current research combines with timeless wisdom for lasting success. From personal productivity to personal development, self-leadership to team leadership, and intentionality to influence, get the insights and tools you need to win at work and succeed at life.

Leadership in the Shadows

During his 20-plus years of military service, with multiple operational units within the United States Army's Special Operations community, Sgt. Maj. Kyle Lamb continually honed his leadership skills while being selected for one critical assignment after another. “Leadership in the Shadows” brings those leadership lessons to you. Drawn from real life experiences, Lamb's lessons will give you the tools and insight to raise your leadership skills to the next level. Whether you're in the corporate world, military, or law enforcement, the knowledge in "Leadership in the Shadows" will help guide your team to mission success.

Leadership Transformed

How does a good manager become a great leader? Ask around in business circles and you’ll get a thousand different answers. After more than a decade’s research and practice, Dr. Peter Fuda shares the seven common themes that have enabled hundreds of CEOs around the world to transform themselves into effective leaders and transformed the performance of their organizations.
Leading Up: How to Lead Your Boss so You Both Win

Michael Useem

Today’s best leaders know how to lead up, a necessary strategy when a supervisor is micromanaging rather than macrothinking. A division president offers clear directives but can’t see the future, or investors demand instant gain but need long-term growth. Through vivid, compelling stories, Michael Useem reveals how upward leadership can transform incipient disaster into hard-won triumph. Useem explores what happens when those who should step forward fail to do so.

Lincoln on Leadership: Executive Strategies for Tough Times

Donald T. Phillips

When Lincoln took the oath of office in 1861, the Confederate States had already seceded from the Union. Even though his own advisers expected him to fail, he eventually reunited the embattled states with uncommon good sense. Using historical anecdotes, speeches, and Lincoln’s own letters, Donald T. Phillips shares the president’s practical managerial strategies: seize the initiative, wage only one war at a time, encourage risk-taking while promoting job security, circulate among the troops, and more. With this compelling portrait, Phillips reveals Lincoln as one of the world’s most outstanding leaders.

Loonshots: How to Nurture the Crazy Ideas That Win Wars, Cure Diseases and Transform Industries

Safi Bahcall

"Loonshots" is a blend of world history, science, technology, and business. Safi Bahcall takes readers on a rollercoaster ride that reveals the power of nurturing crazy ideas and embracing audacious projects. Though we often feel comfortable maintaining the status quo, especially in a group setting, sometimes we must provide opportunities for daring ideas to flow. The truth is that the world as we know it today would not be what it is without loonshots.

Masters of Scale with Reid Hoffman

Reid Hoffman

Iconic CEOs—from Nike to Netflix, Starbucks to Slack—share the stories and strategies that helped them grow from startups into global brands. On each episode, host Reid Hoffman—LinkedIn co-founder, Greylock partner, and legendary Silicon Valley investor—proves an unconventional theory about how businesses scale, while his guests share the story of how they built their companies. Hoffman and guests talk entrepreneurship, leadership, strategy, management, fundraising. But, they also talk about the human journey—with all its failures and setbacks.
Measure What Matters: OKRs–The Simple Idea That Drives 10x Growth

John Doerr

"Measure What Matters" is about using objectives and key results, a revolutionary approach to goal-setting, to make tough choices in business. In 1999, legendary venture capitalist John Doerr invested nearly $12 million in a startup that had amazing technology, entrepreneurial energy, and sky-high ambitions but no real business plan. Doerr introduced the founders to objectives and key results and with them at the foundation of their management, the startup grew from 40 employees to more than 70,000, with a market cap exceeding $600 billion. The startup was Google.

Never Split the Difference: Negotiating as if Your Life Depends on It

Chris Voss with Tahl Raz

A former international hostage negotiator for the FBI offers a new field-tested approach to high-stakes negotiations—whether in the boardroom or at home. Life is a series of negotiations, from buying a car and negotiating a salary to deliberating with your partner. Taking emotional intelligence and intuition to the next level, "Never Split the Difference" gives an inside look at the world the world of high-stakes negotiations, revealing how Chris Voss and his colleagues succeed where it mattered the most—in saving lives.

Nine Lies about Work: A Freethinking Leader's Guide to the Real World

Marcus Buckingham and Ashley Goodall

Your organization's culture is the key to its success. Strategic planning is essential. People crave feedback. These may sound like basic truths of our work lives today, but actually, they're lies. Authors Marcus Buckingham and Ashley Goodall show in this provocative, inspiring book that there are some big lies—distortions, faulty assumptions, wrong thinking—running through our organizational lives. Nine lies, to be exact. They cause dysfunction and frustration and, ultimately, result in a strange feeling of unreality that pervades our workplaces.

Outwitting the Devil: The Secret to Freedom and Success

Napoleon Hill

Written in 1938, this powerful and controversial tale has never been published. Using his legendary ability to get to the root of human potential, Napoleon Hill digs deep to identify the greatest obstacles we face in reaching personal goals: fear, procrastination, anger, and jealousy. These hidden methods of control can lead us to ruin, but Hill reveals the seven principles of good that allow us to triumph over them.
Peacekeeping Intelligence

Wies Platje

Only one organization can be said to be truly concerned with global security and prosperity in the common interest of all mankind: the United Nations. But, the U.N. has chosen to ignore the proven process of "intelligence" by confusing it with espionage. Intelligence is not about espionage. It is about rationalized decision-support. "Peacekeeping Intelligence" is, in essence, "Ref A" for the future of intelligence at the U.N. It brings together experience from practitioners and scholars with past reports to discuss peacekeeping intelligence for the future to reduce uncertainty and make instability manageable.

Power and Influence: Beyond Formal Authority

John P. Kotter

Full of original ideas and expert insights about how organizations—and the people in them—function, "Power and Influence" discusses that lower-level personnel also need strong leadership skills and interpersonal know-how to perform well. John P. Kotter explains how you can develop sufficient resources of "unofficial" power and influence to achieve goals, steer clear of conflicts, foster creative team behavior, and gain the cooperation and support you need from subordinates, co-workers, superiors—even people outside your department or organization. He also shows how you can avoid the twin traps of naiveté and cynicism when dealing with power relationships and how to use your power without abusing it.

Radical Candor: Be a Kick-Ass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity

Kim Scott

Great bosses have strong relationships with their employees, and Kim Scott has identified three simple principles for building better relationships with your employees: make it personal, get things done, and understand why it matters. "Radical Candor" offers a guide to those bewildered or exhausted by management. Taken from years of experience and distilled clearly with actionable lessons; it shows managers how to be successful while retaining their humanity, finding meaning in their job, and creating an environment where people both love their work and their colleagues.

Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World

David Epstein

David Epstein examined the world’s most successful athletes, artists, musicians, inventors, forecasters, and scientists. He discovered that in most fields—especially those that are complex and unpredictable—generalists, not specialists, are primed to excel. Generalists often find their path late, and they juggle many interests rather than focusing on one. They’re also more creative, more agile, and able to make connections their more specialized peers can’t see. Provocative, rigorous, and engrossing, "Range" makes a compelling case for actively cultivating inefficiency.
Safe for Work

Liz Dolan and Rico Gagliano

Life at work can be funny, challenging, ridiculous, and—yes—even satisfying. "Safe For Work" is all about helping others find balance and happiness in their career. After all, many of us spend more time with our co-workers and clients than with our friends and family. Hosts Liz Dolan and Rico Gagliano talk to experts about those moments at the office that can challenge the best of us: negotiating raises, knowing when it’s time to move on... or dealing with that annoying officemate with no boundaries.

Sea Stories: My Life in Special Operations

Adm. William H. McRaven, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Adm. William H. McRaven is a part of American military history, having been involved in some of the most famous missions in recent memory, including the capture of Saddam Hussein, the rescue of Richard Phillips, and the raid to kill Osama bin Laden. "Sea Stories" begins in 1960 at the American Officers' Club in France, where Allied officers and their wives gathered to have drinks and tell stories about their adventures during World War II—the place where a young Bill McRaven learned the value of a good story.

Smarter Faster Better

Charles Duhigg

Drawing on the latest findings in neuroscience, psychology, and behavioral economics, as well as the experiences of CEOs, educational reformers, four-star generals, FBI agents, airplane pilots, and Broadway songwriters, this painstakingly researched book explains that productive people, companies, and organizations don't merely act differently. They view the world, and their choices, in profoundly different ways. The way we frame our daily decisions, the big ambitions we embrace and the easy goals we ignore, the cultures we establish as leaders to drive innovation, and the way we interact with data are the things that separate the merely busy from the genuinely productive.

Speak Like Churchill, Stand Like Lincoln: 21 Powerful Secrets to History's Greatest Speakers

James C. Humes

James C. Humes explains how great leaders used simple yet incredibly effective tricks to speak, persuade, and win throngs of fans and followers. In "Speak Like Churchill," you'll discover how Napoleon mastered the use of the pregnant pause to grab attention, how Margaret Thatcher punctuated her most serious speeches with the use of subtle props, how Ronald Reagan could win even the most hostile crowd with carefully timed wit. Whether you're addressing a small nation or a large staff meeting, you'll want to master the tips and tricks in this book.
The Surprising Science of Meetings: How You Can Lead Your Team to Peak Performance

Steven G. Rogelberg

"The Surprising Science of Meetings" draws from extensive research, analysis and data mining, and survey interviews with more than 5,000 employees across a range of industries to share the proven practices and techniques that help managers and employees enhance the quality of their meetings. For those who lead and participate in meetings, Steve G. Rogelberg provides direction, guidance, and relief, offering a how-to guide to change your working life.

The Tim Ferriss Show

Tim Ferriss

Tim Ferriss is a self-experimenter and bestselling author. In this podcast, Ferriss deconstructs world-class performers from eclectic areas, such as investing, chess, and pro sports, and digs deep to find the tools, tactics, and tricks that listeners can use.

Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging

Sebastian Junger

Combining history, psychology, and anthropology, "Tribe" explores what we can learn from tribal societies about loyalty, belonging, and the eternal human quest for meaning. It explains the irony that—for many veterans as well as civilians—war feels better than peace, adversity can turn out to be a blessing, and disasters are sometimes remembered more fondly than weddings or tropical vacations. "Tribe" explains why we are stronger when we come together and how that can be achieved even in today's divided world.

Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, a Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lessons

Mitch Albom

Maybe it was a grandparent or a teacher. Someone older, patient, and wise who understood you when you were young, helping you see the world and giving you advice. For Mitch Albom that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor. Albom rediscovered Morrie in the last months of his life. Knowing he was dying, Morrie visited with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final "class."
Turn the Ship Around!

Capt. L. David Marquet, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

The true story of how the USS Santa Fe skyrocketed from worst to first in the fleet by challenging the U.S. Navy's traditional leader-follower approach. Struggling against his own instincts to take control, Capt. L. David Marquet instead achieved the more powerful model of giving control. Before long, each member of Marquet's crew became a leader and assumed responsibility for everything he did, from clerical tasks to crucial combat decisions. The crew became fully engaged, contributing their full-intellectual capacity every day, and the Santa Fe started winning awards and promoting a highly disproportionate number of officers to submarine command.

Unleash the Tiger! For Organizational High Performance

Dr. Simmie A. Adams

Organizations must adapt, overcome, and improvise to meet the pressures and demands of a modern environment. They must rely on the knowledge, skills, and experiences of a variety of people to solve problems, make good decisions, and deliver effective solutions. The current environment is one of shrinking revenues and increased costs and expenditures. The road to increased organization profits is built on an organizational foundation supporting, reinforcing, and even demanding improved performance.

The Way of the SEAL: Think Like an Elite Warrior to Lead and Succeed

Cmdr. Mark Divine, U.S. Navy (Ret.), with Allyson Edelhertz Machate

In "The Way of the SEAL," retired Navy SEAL Cmdr. Mark Divine reveals exercises, meditations, and focusing techniques, learned from America's elite force with lessons from the Spartans, samurai, Apache scouts, and other great warrior traditions, to train your mind for mental toughness, emotional resilience, and uncanny intuition.

What the Dog Saw: And Other Adventures

Malcolm Gladwell

Malcolm Gladwell has become a gifted and influential journalist in America. Now, the best of his New Yorker articles are collected in a brilliant anthology. Among the pieces, his investigation into why there are so many different kinds of mustard but only one kind of ketchup, a surprising assessment of what makes for a safer automobile, a look at how we hire when we can't tell who's right for the job, the reasons why homelessness might be easier to solve than manage; a look at why employers love personality tests; and the quest to invent the perfect cookie.
Women at Work
*Amy Bernstein, Amy Gallo, and Nicole Torres*

Women face gender discrimination throughout their careers. It doesn't have to derail our ambitions—but how do we prepare to deal with it? There's no workplace orientation session about narrowing the wage gap, standing up to interrupting male colleagues, or taking on many other issues we encounter at work. So Harvard Business Review editors Amy Bernstein, Amy Gallo, and Nicole Torres are untangling some of the knottiest problems. They interview experts on gender, tell stories about their own experiences, and give practical advice to help you succeed in spite of the obstacles.

Work Life with Adam Grant
*Adam Grant*

You spend a quarter of your life at work. You should enjoy it! Organizational psychologist Adam Grant takes you inside the minds of some of the world's most unusual professionals to discover the keys to a better work life. From learning how to love your rivals to harnessing the power of frustration, one thing's for sure: You'll never see your job the same way again.

You are Worth It: Building a Life Worth Fighting For
*Kyle Carpenter and Don Yaeger*

Kyle Carpenter's remarkable story is of how one man laid down his life for his brother-in-arms and how he battled back from the gravest challenge to forge a life of joyful purpose. Carpenter's heart flatlined three times while being evacuated off the battlefield in Afghanistan. Yet, his spirit was unbroken. It would take dozens of surgeries and almost three years in and out of the hospital to reconstruct his body. From there, he began the process of rebuilding his life. What he has accomplished in the last nine years is extraordinary. He came back a stronger, better, wiser person.
DIA Creed

I am an officer of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

I have taken an oath to support and defend
The Constitution of the United States of America
and all for which it stands.
Against all enemies, foreign and domestic.
As a DIA officer, I pledge to provide premier
intelligence to the warfighter;
To communicate clearly, concisely, and
decisively in support of the policymaker;
To speak truth to power and take ownership
in pursuit of our mission;
And to safeguard the information with
which I have been entrusted.
As a DIA officer, I embody excellence, teamwork,
integrity, initiative, and accountability.
I will hold myself and my colleagues responsible
for our actions and inactions.
I will treat others with respect and professionalism;
And I will encourage creativity, innovation,
and a culture of trust.
If I see a problem, I will find a solution.
If I see a challenge, I will rise to it.
I strive for excellence in all that I do.
I am a DIA officer. I am DIA.