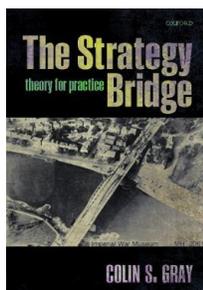


# DA Commandant's Reading List

## B. Strategy

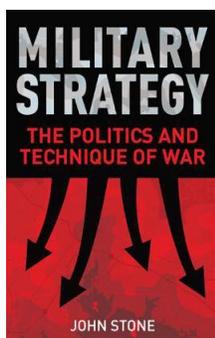


### 1. The Strategy Bridge by Colin Gray

Eliot Cohen calls this 'the first original and serious work on strategy of the 21st century.' In it, Colin Gray identifies 21 dicta on strategy. These dicta cover the theory and the practicalities of making and executing strategy. All of Gray's explanations are set in a contemporary context. He recognizes that the bridge that links abstract ideas to practical outcomes relies on human interactions. The potential value of this book is clear. Its impact will depend on the willingness of practitioners to learn from it.

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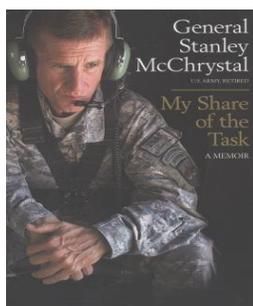


### 2. Military Strategy: The Politics and Technique of War by John Stone

John Stone provides a succinct and impressive abstraction of military strategy from selected wars. It ranges from the French revolution through nineteenth-century Prussia and Germany, WWI, US and liberal-capitalist war (1941-1961), theories of limited nuclear war, contemporary conventional war and finally the so-called global war on terror. Despite its breadth, it is an easy read, because Stone does not set out to produce perfectly-referenced narratives. Instead he sets out some instinctive arguments about the complex trajectory of military strategy. It loses no authority for this less-than purely-academic approach; his arguments are compelling. If a reader wants big handfuls of Clausewitz put squarely into context, this is a good investment.

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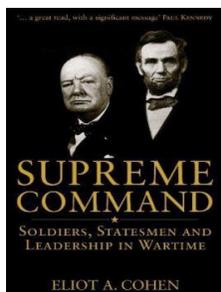


### 3. My Share of the Task: A Memoir by Stanley McChrystal

An unpretentious historical narrative focused on the National Mission Force (US tier one special forces) which describes a new way of war following the information revolution in military affairs. It is a first take on post 9/11 American military history. Above all, this is a commentary on modern military leadership. There are plenty of important insights here. Any serious leader will want this memoir on his bookshelf.

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#### 4. **Supreme Command: Soldiers, Statesmen, and Leadership in Wartime** by Eliot A.

Conventional wisdom on the relationship between politicians and their military leaders tends to suggest that politicians should set military objectives and then stand aside to leave the execution of military campaigns to the experts. Cohen challenges this view by illustrating four case studies of political-military relationships in war. He examines the leadership of Abraham Lincoln, Georges Clemenceau, Winston Churchill and David Ben-Gurion to highlight some of the inherent tensions between statesmen and their military subordinates. He not only provides a fascinating account of the complexity, frictions and frustrations of human relationships, but also reveals some of the enduring characteristics of strategy-making in democracies.

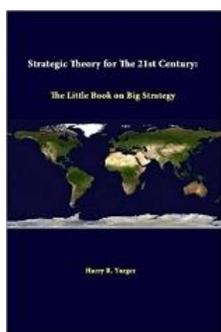
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Article

#### 5. **Strategy or Alibi? Obama, McChrystal and the Operational Level of War** by Professor Sir Hew Strachan

Cock-up or conspiracy? Whatever the case, the ignominious resignation of Gen McChrystal as COMISAF in 2010 arguably brought to an end any realistic hope that the ISAF coalition could achieve genuine strategic success in Afghanistan. This profound article by the much respected Professor Sir Hew Strachan is a timely reminder of the oft forgotten maxim that no amount of operational art can mitigate the absence of sound strategy. Understanding the limits of the operational level, and the relationship between the operational commander and his political-military masters, is perhaps more important today than at any other time

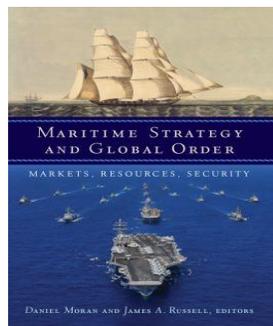
Survival: Vol. 52, No 5, October-November 2010, pp. 157-182 (106)	<b>Location:</b> MINDEF & DA Libraries
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#### 6. **Strategic theory for the 21st century: the little book of big strategy** by YARGER Harry R

As the title suggests this short book deals with strategy at the highest level of the nation-state. It is concerned with grand strategy, national security strategy, national military strategy, and regional or theater strategy. As is repeatedly made clear strategy is not about planning. Considers strategy theory and explores those aspects that appear to have universal application. While the examples used tend to relate to the USA the principles can be applied universally.

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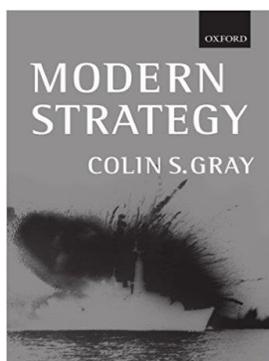


### 7. Maritime Strategy and Global Order: Markets, Resources, Security Maritime Strategy and Global Order by MORAN Daniel (ed.)

Taken for granted as the natural order of things, peace at sea is in fact an immense and recent achievement--but also an enormous strategic challenge if it is to be maintained in the future. In *Maritime Strategy and Global Order*, an international roster of top scholars offers historical perspectives and contemporary analysis to explore the role of naval power and maritime trade in creating the international system.

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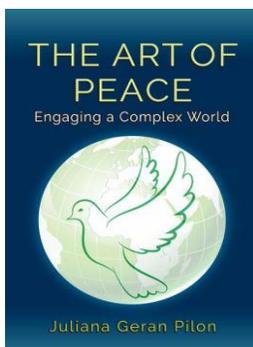


### 8. Modern Strategy by Colin S. Gray

Modern strategy book is about the theory and practice of the use and threat use of organized force for political purposes in the twentieth century. This book contents the dimensions of strategy, strategic culture as context, nuclear weapons in strategic history and patterns in strategic experience.

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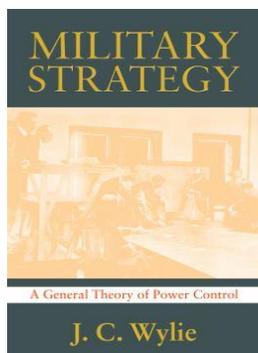


### 9. The Art of Peace: Engaging a Complex World.

The steep rise in unconventional conflict has increased the need for diplomatic and other non-hard power tools of statecraft. The United States can no longer afford to sit on the proverbial three-legged national security stool ("military, diplomacy, development"), where one leg is a lot longer than either of the other two, almost forgetting altogether the fourth leg--information, especially strategic communication and public diplomacy. The United States isn't so much becoming militarized as decivilianized.

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**10. Military Strategy: A General Theory of Power Control by WYLIE J.C. (Joseph Caldwell)**

Admiral Wylie's analyses and opinions are well worth the attention of military professionals, government leaders, newspaper editors, commentators and scholars. Because he has a freewheeling mind and is unhampered by orthodox military terms and the prevailing dogmas, his book will be of keen interest to laymen concerned about our nation's welfare and future.

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