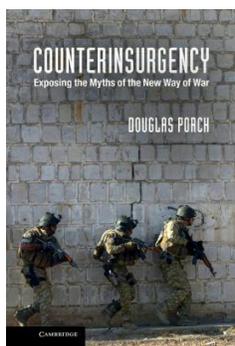


DA Commandant's Reading List

C. Warfare

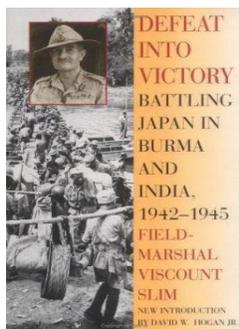


1. Counterinsurgency: Exposing the Myths of the New Way of War by Douglas Porch

Many authors have written on the subject of counterinsurgency over recent years and there has been little to differentiate between their theories. Porch in contrast, lays bare the fallacies of counterinsurgency as a 'new way of war'. Using a neat array of historical examples he demonstrates that the providential western predilection for a hearts and minds based approach to intervention is flawed and seldom successful. He believes that much of this is attributable to poor strategic definition and a failure to adhere to Clausewitzian principles. This book represents a refreshingly alternative view of counterinsurgency and its place in warfare and associated political-military relations. I commend it to all campaign planners.

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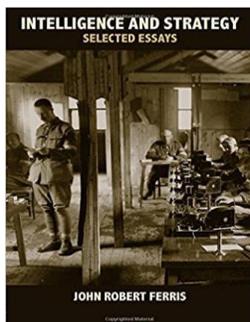


2. Defeat into Victory by Field Marshal Viscount William Slim

This book was written by a Field Marshal who seemed unclouded by ego – a man who learnt from his mistakes, grew into a great commander through reflection and dedication, and was eager to record his experiences in order to help develop future leaders. It is a work of great humanity and humility which perfectly illustrates the demands of military operational command and the weight of responsibility that falls on senior shoulders. The prologue is one of the great works of military literature.

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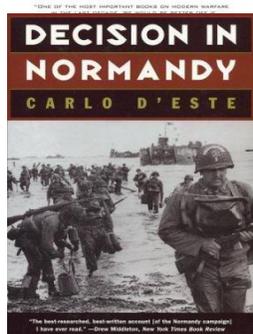


3. Intelligence and Strategy: Selected Essays by John Ferris

This collection explains how communications intelligence influenced British strategy and diplomacy from 1874 to 1940 and international diplomacy during the Second World War. It brings new light to our understanding of the relationship between intelligence, strategy and diplomacy between the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 21st century.

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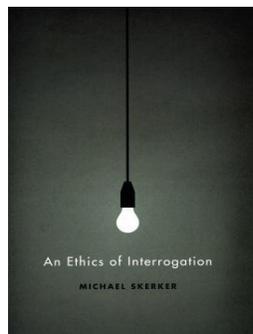
4. The Utility of Force: The Art of War in the Modern World by General Sir Rupert Smith

General Rupert Smith's idea of 'war amongst the people' tapped into the Zeitgeist on publication, coinciding as it did with the initial unravelling of America's efforts in Iraq. Critics of this paradigm might suggest that the characteristics of war and conflict evolve now just as they have always done, but that their fundamental natures endure. From today's perspective, a 'war among the people' in the Persian Gulf appears unlikely, even as the risk of industrial-age force-on-force conflict there increases, but the potential for just such a war between Israel and Lebanese

Hezbollah as precursor, corollary or consequence grows ever more probable. The opening and closing chapters still bite.

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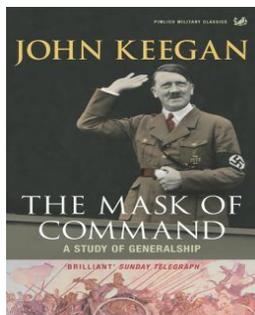


5. An Ethics of Interrogation by Michael Skerker

The first book to address fully this complex and controversial issue. The author, who teaches at the US Naval Academy, confronts philosophical and legal issues, from the right to privacy and the privilege against compelled self-incrimination to prisoner rights and the legal consequences of different modes of interrogation for terror suspects. The topics raise questions about the morality of keeping secrets as well as the rights of suspected terrorists and insurgents. Thoughtful consideration leads Skerker to specific policy recommendations for law enforcement, military, and intelligence professionals.

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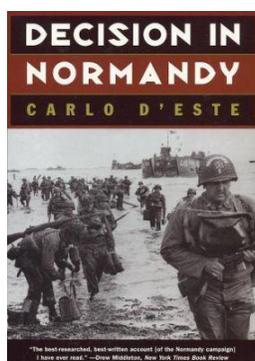


6. The Mask of Command: A Study of Generalship by Sir John Keegan

Keegan's close examination of a commander's personality and how that links to risk-taking and an ability to adapt to changing circumstances makes for a fascinating read. The four case studies will influence the reader's understanding of the historical role of the commander and may change the reader's own concept of command. Required reading for the Command and Staff Course.

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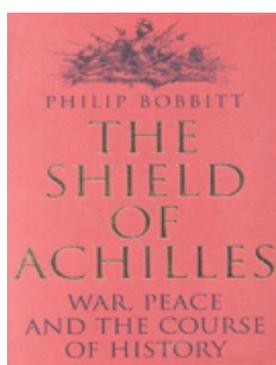


7. Decision in Normandy by Carlo D'Este

What D'Este achieves so successfully in this magnificently researched and written book is to bring Clausewitzian 'friction' to life. Whether through the physical barriers of the bocage; the difficulties of integrating air and land effort; or the mutual interference of personal reputations, D'Este's immensely detailed account exposes the challenges of commanding an operation of such scale and complexity. Although not without flaws, the deliberate focus on Montgomery inevitably slightly short-changes the US perspective, and despite the existence of more recent works on Normandy, this is still a particularly worthwhile and appropriate account, especially for the military reader.

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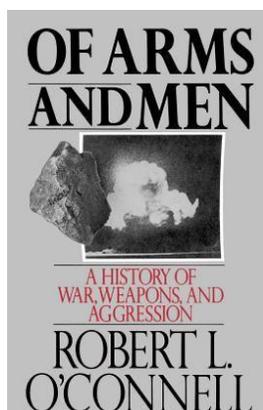


8. The Shield of Achilles: War, Peace and the Course of History by Philip Bobbitt

Philip Bobbitt's magisterial book challenges us to reassess the validity of the very concept of national security. Observing that the strategies necessary to resolve 'epochal' wars have throughout history resulted in the creation of new forms of constitutional order, Bobbitt argues that the most recent of these was the 'long' war of 1914 – 1990, which saw the victory of democracy over both fascism and communism. In achieving such a victory, Bobbitt says, strategic innovations such as WMD, ubiquitous communications technologies and globalization have themselves undermined the legitimacy of the nation state, and replaced it with a 'market state' construct. Recognising that such a structure can no more assure peace than anything that came before it, he closes with several scenarios whose outcomes depend on what forms of constitutional order the future community of market states might choose. 'Shield of Achilles' is easy to read (despite its 919 pages), but its conclusions are quite hard to stomach.

Call No: 327.101 BOB

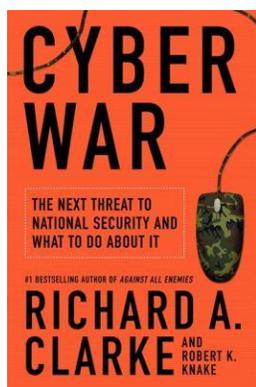
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9. Of Arms and Men: A History of War, Weapons, and Aggression by Robert O'Connell

There is something for everyone who wears a uniform in this very readable, sweeping tale of the development of weapons, and their impact, not only on warfare, but also on the nature of the societies they both arm and curse. From the Sumerians to Los Alamos, O'Connell's narrative, addressing the three 'ages' of weaponry (mechanical, chemical and nuclear), engages and informs like few others. He ends with a bleak assessment: 'we live on the edge of destruction', but does so from a 1989 Cold War perspective. Not entirely disconsolate, he suggests that, were mankind to reach a century beyond Hiroshima without further nuclear exchange, then the spectre of holocaust might have receded so far as to be 'unthinkable.' 32 years to go, then.

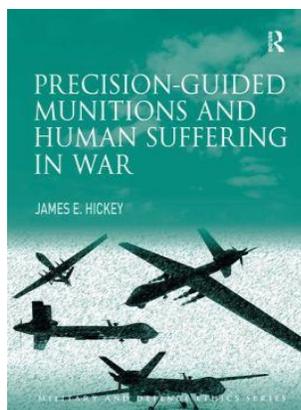
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10. Cyber War: The Next Threat to National Security and What to do about it by Richard A. Clarke and Robert K. Knake

If you only read one book on Cyber warfare then read this one. Compellingly written by with strong US security and policy pedigrees, this is essential reading. The book focuses at the strategy and policy level, but is sufficiently well grounded technically to be credible. It is at times sensationalist in tone and some of the conclusions over-repeated, but this can be forgiven as the intent is to garner action to address the vulnerability of Western society which is starkly portrayed. The threat is helpfully broken down into Cyber Crime, 'Hactivism', Espionage and Cyber Warfare. The treatment of cyber draws on nuclear deterrence theory, but is also practical and considers the requirement to establish international norms of behaviour in cyberspace and changes to the law. Clarke himself covers the key themes of the book in a lecture available on YouTube, which is itself a useful introduction. Link as follows: [richardclarke-honors-colloquium-2011-cyber-warfare-youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=richardclarke-honors-colloquium-2011-cyber-warfare-youtube)

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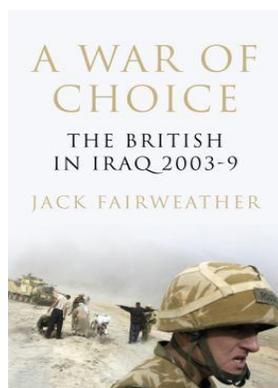


11. Precision-Guided Munitions and Human Suffering in War by James E. Hickey

This book seeks to answer the question: Do precision-guided munitions (PGMs) mitigate suffering in war, and have these weapons changed the way decisions regarding war and peace have been made? Answering this question helps us understand possible shifts in emphasis in modern warfare, both in terms of methods employed and of the greater concern placed on limiting human suffering during conflict. This book offers help in understanding the possible outcomes and wider implications of strategic choices made in using PGMs.

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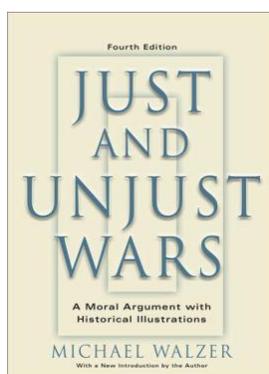
12. Iraq: A War of Choice by Jack Fairweather

Jack Fairweather provides a home-grown critique of the British Army's performance during the occupation of Iraq. He asserts that it failed to achieve its objectives, and links this to the desire on the part of both politicians and military planners to extract themselves from a 'bad' war in Basra and to a fundamental misunderstanding by the same people of the characteristics of the 'good' one they sought in Helmand. Alternating seat of the pants narrative (the chapter covering the Jaimat Prison rescue has shades of Tom Clancy) with condemnation of most senior figures in Whitehall from Tony Blair downward, Fairweather draws together a compelling, though somewhat selective, case for

the prosecution.

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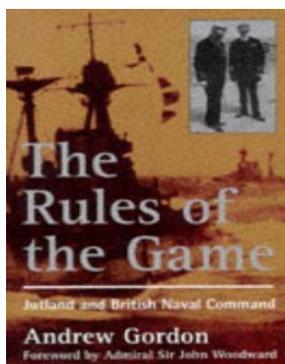


13. Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations by Michael Walzer

A classic work on the morality of conflict. Surveying the ethics, politics and laws behind aggression, this book offers historical examples of what is right and what is wrong. Walzer offers all sides of the argument with impartial thoroughness. When does 'fighting well' become 'excessive violence'? What does it mean to be neutral? Where are the limits when national survival is at stake? Who should be held responsible for war crimes? Is nuclear war immoral? A must read for all military planners and commanders.

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14. The Rules of the Game by Dr Andrew Gordon

This book is not just about navies – although it does give a gripping account of the battle of Jutland – and any military reader who thinks it is has rather missed the point. It is about different styles of command and the implications that they can have in practice. It is also about the culture of military organisations, offering a cautionary tale of how a hugely successful institution, forged in the heat of war, can lose direction when faced with the very different challenges of peacetime. It is also brilliantly written and a joy to read.

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15. Future Character of Conflict by Development Concepts and Doctrine Centre

Global Strategic Trends – and its accompanying work, the Future Character of Conflict – are endorsed UK MOD products. These serve as a good guide for those involved in the future and strategic force development business; they provide the audit trail which should underpin all of UK's structural and capability change programmes, and its resource allocation decisions. What is written therein are nothing less than the 'big ideas' which inform both UK's view of the world and its military's expected role as an instrument of national power.

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