

Commandant's HR Professional Reading and Resource List

TITLE	AUTHOR	PURPOSE
The Federalist Papers	Charles R. Kesler	<i>The Federalist Papers</i> give important explanations of the separation of powers, limits of each branch of the central government (The Federal Government), and how political power should be used within severe limitations. These articles were a brilliant attempt to mitigate fears that The U.S. Constitution would give far too much power to the central or federal government.
The Anti-Federalist Papers	Ralph Ketcham	This book is an edited version of the source documents that should be read in conjunction with <i>The Federalist Papers</i> for an accurate understanding of the controversy surrounding the foundation of our government. The arguments are primarily those against a strong central government.
Founding Brothers	Joseph J. Ellis	Ellis argues that the checks and balances that permitted the infant American republic to endure were not primarily legal, constitutional, or institutional, but intensely personal, rooted in the dynamic interaction of leaders with quite different visions and values. Revisiting the old-fashioned idea that character matters, <i>Founding Brothers</i> informs our understanding of American politics--then and now--and gives us a new perspective on the unpredictable forces that shape history.
Imperial Hubris: Why the West is Losing the War on Terror	Michael Scheuer	Regardless of your political leanings, this book is worth a read. The author unflatteringly lays out how some of our actions are perceived by many muslims today. This is a great study on perspective and others around the world view our American ethno-centric tendencies.
The World is Flat	Thomas L. Friedman	<i>The World Is Flat 3.0</i> is an essential update on globalization, its opportunities for individual empowerment, its achievements at lifting millions out of poverty, and its drawbacks--environmental, social, and political—as outlined by the author.
The Bottom Billion	Paul Collier	Collier reveals that fifty failed states--home to the poorest one billion people on Earth--pose the central challenge of the developing world. The book shines light on this group of small nations, largely unnoticed by the industrialized West, that are dropping further and further behind the majority of the world's people, and what must be done to fix the decline.
Rising Powers, Shrinking Planet	Michael T. Klare	This book is an indispensable account of how the world's increasing demand for ever-diminishing supplies of energy is changing the international balance of power.
The New Counterinsurgency Era: Transforming the U.S. Military for Modern Wars	John A. Nagl	This is an important book for anyone interested in the U.S. military's effort to learn from contemporary conflict and adapt to the demands of counterinsurgency warfare in Iraq.
Descent into Chaos: The United States and the Failure of Nation Building in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia	Ahmed Rashid	Public opinion varies widely on this book concerning the international relationships grown and strained by US policy in the region.
The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable	Nassim Nicholas Taleb	The author discusses the need to review our way of thinking concerning the highly improbable, and why we think the way we do.

Lost History: The Enduring Legacy of Muslim Scientists, Thinkers and Artists	Michael H. Morgan	In an era when the relationship between Islam and the West seems mainly defined by mistrust and misunderstanding, it is important to remember that Muslim civilization once was the envy of the world. <i>Lost History</i> fills a significant void and is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the role early Muslims played in influencing modern society.
Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln	Doris Kearns Goodwin	Many books have been written about Abraham Lincoln, but in <i>Team of Rivals</i> , Doris Kearns Goodwin zeroes in on the his ability to bring disparate groups and men into his presidency and use their talents to hold the country together
With My Face to the Enemy: Perspectives on the Civil War	Robert Cowley	Essays on the most vital conflict in our nation's history written by renowned historians, <i>With My Face to the Enemy</i> is a wide-ranging anthology of essays on the Civil War-our nation's defining struggle and the first modern war in history.
The Five Temptations of A CEO	Patrick Lencioni	Focus on an unexpected meeting between troubled high-tech honcho Andrew O'Brien and a mysterious old man named Charlie to explore a series of common traps that can unwittingly ensnare any hard-driven executive. The author hones in on the five "temptations" of the workplace
The Killer Angels: A Novel of the Civil War	Michael Shaara	The story of Gettysburg, told from the viewpoint of Robert E. Lee and James Longstreet and some of the other men who fought there.
AWOL: The Unexcused Absence of America's Upper Classes from Military Service, and How It Hurts Our Country	Kathy Roth-Douquet and Frank Schaeffer	<i>AWOL</i> attempts to provide a critical analysis of the diminishing relationship between the upper classes and the military, and the detriment resulting from the weakening relationship. The end result is a collective penance or catharsis of two writers thrown together, who willingly discuss their self-enlightenment concerning today's modern military
The Gamble: General David Petraeus and the American Military Adventure in Iraq.	Thomas E. Ricks	Discusses how a few people inside and outside the Pentagon pushed the new strategy despite opposition across the political spectrum and the military top brass, and how Soldiers put the difficult plan into action on the ground and managed to sharply reduce the chaotic violence in Iraq.
In Search of Ethics: Conversations with Men and Women of Character	Len Marrella	This stimulating and inspirational book points out the quicksand that we all walk upon daily and illustrates the message through interviews and commentaries with some fascinating people who had to look moral and ethical challenges in the face and decide for themselves how they were going to handle their own "Ethics Gate."
Developing Adaptive Leaders: The Crucible of Experience of Operation Iraqi Freedom	Leonard Wong	Study from the US Army's Strategic Studies Institute at Carlisle. Dr Wong argues that junior officers are being developed into creative, innovative, and independent leaders.
How the Army Runs: A Senior Leader Reference Handbook	Army War College	Official U.S. government publication that explains the operation and relationships of the systems which enable the U.S. Army to fulfill its roles and accomplish its missions.
The Starfish and the Spider	Ori Brafman and Rod A. Beckstrom	The authors examine the resiliency of businesses and organizations today through the use of starfish and spider metaphors. If you cut off a spider's head, it dies. But if you cut off a starfish's leg, it grows a new one, and that leg can grow into an entirely new starfish. Traditional top-down organizations are like spiders, but now starfish organizations are changing the face of business and the world.

Who Moved My Cheese	Spencer Johnson, M.D.	Who Moved My Cheese is the story of four characters living in a "Maze" who face unexpected change when they discover their "Cheese" has disappeared. Sniff and Scurry, who are mice, and Hem and Haw, little people the size of mice, each adapt to change in their "Maze" differently. In fact, one doesn't adapt at all...
What The Dog Saw	Malcolm Gladwell	<i>What the Dog Saw</i> is a collection of the essays from <i>The New Yorker</i> that put him on the map. The topics range from ketchup to plagiarism to failure.
Outliers	Malcolm Gladwell	Gladwell argues that success is tightly married to opportunity and time on task. He states that it takes approximately 10,000 hours to master something
The Persian Puzzle: The Conflict Between Iran and America	Kenneth M. Pollack	Pollack examines the behind-the-scenes story of the tumultuous relationship between Iran and the United States, and weighs options for the future.
The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers	Paul Kennedy	This book is about national and international power in the "modern" or Post Renaissance period. Explains how the various powers have risen and fallen over the 5 centuries since the formation of the "new monarchies" in Western Europe.
On War	Carl von Clausewitz	Timeless insights on a dead Prussian General's theories on the relationship between the people, government and military.
The Art of War	Sun Tzu	Popularly known as <i>The Art of War</i> , <i>Sun-Tzu</i> is one of the leading books on strategic thinking ever written. While other books on strategy, wisdom, and philosophy come and go, both leaders and gentle contemplators alike have embraced the writings of Sun-tzu.
The Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age	Peter Paret	The essays in this volume analyze war, its strategic characteristics and its political and social functions, over the past five centuries. The diversity of its themes and the broad perspectives applied to them make the book a work of general history as much as a history of the theory and practice of war from the Renaissance to the present.
We Were Soldiers Once... And Young	LT GEN(R) Harold G. Moore and Joseph L. Galloway	This book focuses on the role of the First and Second Battalions of the 7th Cavalry Regiment in the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley, the United States' first large-unit battle of the Vietnam War; the heroic efforts of men in battle; and what the families of these men went through before, during and after.
An Army at Dawn	Rick Atkinson	The first of three volumes about the U.S. role in the World War II liberation of Europe, <i>An Army at Dawn</i> deals with the lessons learned- often at the expense of lives - in the North Africa campaign, which many general readers have tended to neglect in favor of Italy, Normandy, and beyond
The Day of Battle	Rick Atkinson	<i>The Day of Battle</i> , tells the story of the Allied invasion of Italy and Sicily in World War II. Part two of "The Liberation Trilogy," we get plenty of information on the British, Canadian, and other Allied troops that took part in the slog that was Italy. It's heavily researched and exhaustively referenced, with no stone left unturned in describing what happened.
Climb to Conquer: The Untold Story of World War II's 10 th Mountain Division Ski Troops	Peter Shelton	Inspirational story of the birth of the 10 th Mountain Division, and the men – mostly immigrants – who trained, led and, in some cases, gave their lives for this Nation. My childhood friend's grandfather was one of these heroes.

Fields of Battle	John Keegan	A tour of the battlefields of North America and a personal tribute to the military prowess of an essentially unwarlike people, <i>Fields of Battle</i> spans more than two centuries and the expanse of a continent to show how the immense spaces of North America shaped the wars that were fought on its soil.
America's First Battles	Charles E. Heller and William A. Stofft	Citing examples like Task Force Smith in Korea and our first battle in North Africa during WWII, the authors expose flawed strategies, low training, and poor equipment. Many times the military enters a war completely unprepared because the normal cycle of demobilization after a conflict reduces the funding and attention our leaders pay to military preparedness.

This compilation of books is intended to stimulate critical thinking and analysis. The broad range, from historical classics to modern best-sellers, is a selection of the books that have, over the years, given me an appreciation for reading. GEN Casey, former Chief of Staff of the Army, said it best when he stipulated that "leaders must find time each day to sleep, exercise, think and read" to be effective and continue to grow. When you read, do so critically. I hope that you find time to read these books, as I have found them both entertaining and enlightening.

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