

# The Chief of Staff's Professional Reading List

**T**his reading list is an important element in the professional development of all leaders in the Army. We can never spend too much time reading and thinking about the Army profession and its interaction with the world at large.

These readings will deepen our understanding of the history of armies, the critical role of leadership in combat, and the strategic environment of today and the future. There is simply no better way to prepare for the future than a disciplined, focused commitment to a

personal course of reading, study, thought and reflection. I challenge each of you to tackle these books and improve your power of critical thinking and understanding of the profession of arms.”

—GEN Raymond T. Odierno

## About the Program

The U.S. Army Chief of Staff's Professional Reading List is divided into four sublists: The Army Profession, The Force of Decisive Action, Broadening Leaders and The Strategic Environment. Taken together, these readings will help soldiers or Army civilians sharpen their critical faculties and broaden their understanding of the military art. These books also complement materials currently used in the Army educational system and can help bridge the intervals between periods of formal instruction at Army schools. It is imperative for members of the Army profession to be well-read in all aspects of our honorable and selfless calling.

Any professional reading list is, of course, only a brief introduction to the many books worth reading on Army history, heritage, leadership and world events. The list is just a starting point on a journey of discovery and development. This selection of books also does not imply that the Chief of Staff endorses the authors' views or interpretations. Nevertheless, these books

contain thought-provoking ideas and information relevant to our dynamic Army today and into the future.

## The Army Profession

*Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest.* Stephen E. Ambrose.

*Between War and Peace: How America Ends Its Wars.* Matthew Moten, editor.

*Boyd: The Fighter Pilot Who Changed the Art of War.* Robert Coram.

*Command Culture: Officer Education in the U.S. Army and the German Armed Forces, 1901–1940, and the Consequences for World War II.* Jörg Muth.

*Constitution of the United States.* Available online at <http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution.html>.

*Dereliction of Duty: Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies that Led to Vietnam.* H.R. McMaster.

*Eisenhower: A Soldier's Life.* Carlo D'Este.

*The Face of Battle: A Study of Agincourt, Waterloo, and the Somme.* John Keegan.

*The Forgotten Hero of My Lai: The Hugh Thompson Story.* Trent Angers.

*Grey Eminence: Fox Conner and the Art of Mentorship.* Edward Cox.

*Grunts: Inside the American Infantry Combat Experience, World War II through Iraq.* John C. McManus.

*Lincoln and His Generals.* Thomas Harry Williams.

*A Message to Garcia.* Fra Elbert Hubbard.

*Nineteen Stars: A Study in Military Character and Leadership.* Edgar F. Puryear, Jr.

*Once an Eagle.* Anton Myrer.

*Partners in Command: George Marshall and Dwight Eisenhower in War and Peace.* Mark Perry.

*Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant.* Ulysses S. Grant.

*The Profession of Arms.* General Sir John Hackett.

*Supreme Command: Soldiers, Statesmen, and Leadership in Wartime.* Eliot A. Cohen.

*The Unforgiving Minute: A Soldier's Education.* Craig M. Mullaney.

### **The Force of Decisive Action**

1776. David G. McCullough.

*The AEF Way of War: The American Army and Combat in World War I.* Mark E. Grotelueschen.

*American Military History, Volume II: The United States Army in a Global Era, 1917–2008.* Richard W. Stewart, general editor.

*An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942–1943, Volume One of the Liberation Trilogy.* Rick Atkinson.

*Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era.* James M. McPherson.

*A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam.* Neil Sheehan.

*The Cambridge Illustrated History of Warfare.* Geoffrey Parker, editor.

*East of Chosin: Entrapment and Breakout in Korea, 1950.* Roy E. Appleman.

*Intelligence in War: Knowledge of the Enemy from Napoleon to Al-Qaeda.* John Keegan.

*The Killer Angels: A Novel of the Civil War.* Michael Shaara.

*The Landmark Thucydides: A Comprehensive Guide to the Peloponnesian War.* Robert B. Strassler, editor.

*On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society.* Dave Grossman.

*A Stillness at Appomattox (Army of the Potomac, Vol. 3).* Bruce Catton.

*Summons of the Trumpet: U.S.-Vietnam in Perspective.* Dave R. Palmer.

*Supplying War: Logistics from Wallenstein to Patton.* Martin L. Van Creveld.

*This Kind of War: The Classic Korean War History.* T. R. Fehrenbach.

*Tip of the Spear: U.S. Army Small-Unit Action in Iraq, 2004–2007.* Jon T. Hoffman, editor.

*Transformation Under Fire: Revolutionizing How America Fights.* Douglas A. Macgregor.

*The U.S. Military Intervention in Panama: Origins, Planning, and Crisis Management, June 1987–December 1989.* Lawrence A. Yates.

*We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young: Ia Drang—the Battle That Changed the War in Vietnam.* Harold G. Moore and Joseph L. Galloway.

### **Broadening Leaders**

*The Age of the Unthinkable: Why The New World Disorder Constantly Surprises Us and What We Can Do About It.* Joshua Cooper Ramo.

*Blowback, 2nd Edition: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire.* Chalmers Johnson.

*Cables from Kabul: The Inside Story of the West's Afghanistan Campaign.* Sherard Cowper-Coles.

*A Choice of Enemies: America Confronts the Middle East.* Lawrence Freedman.

*Credibility: How Leaders Gain and Lose It, Why People Demand It.* James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner.

*Discourses on Livy.* Niccolò Machiavelli.

*The Devil You Don't Know: Going Back to Iraq.* Zuhair al-Jezairy.

*The Dynamics of Military Revolution, 1300–2050.* MacGregor Knox and Williamson Murray, editors.

*Flawed by Design: The Evolution of the CIA, JCS, and NSC.* Amy Zegart.

*For Whom the Bell Tolls.* Ernest Hemingway.

*How: Why How We Do Anything Means Everything.* Dov Seidman.

*The Instigators: How A Small Band of Activists Risked Their Lives and Helped Bring Down The Government of Egypt.* David Wolman.

*Leading Change.* John P. Kotter.

*Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age.* Peter Paret, Gordon A. Craig and Felix Gilbert, editors.

*The Masks of War: American Military Styles in Strategy and Analysis.* Carl H. Builder.

*The Net Delusion: The Dark Side of Internet Freedom.* Evgeny Morozov.

*Rethinking the Principles of War.* Anthony D. McIvor.

*The Starfish and the Spider: The Unstoppable Power of Leaderless Organizations.* Ori Brafman and Rod A. Beckstrom.

*Switch: How to Change Things When Change Is Hard.* Chip and Dan Heath.

*Thinking in Time: The Uses of History for Decision-Makers.* Richard E. Neustadt and Ernest R. May.

*Wired for War: The Robotics Revo-*

*lution and Conflict in the 21st Century.* P.W. Singer.

### **The Strategic Environment**

*The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World.* Niall Ferguson.

*Boomerang: Travels in the New Third World.* Michael Lewis.

*The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order.* Samuel P. Huntington.

*Descent into Chaos: The United States and the Failure of Nation Building in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia.* Ahmed Rashid.

*The Forgotten Continent: The Battle for Latin America's Soul.* Michael Reid.

*The Grand Strategy of the Byzantine Empire.* Edward N. Luttwak.

*A History of Modern Iran.* Ervand Abrahamian.

*Kevlar Legions: A History of Army Transformation 1989–2005.* John Sloan Brown.

*Knowing the Enemy: Jihadist Ideology and the War on Terror.* Mary Habeck.

*The Longest War: The Iran-Iraq Military Conflict.* Dilip Hiro.

*Monsoon: The Indian Ocean and the Future of American Power.* Robert D. Kaplan.

*The Most Noble Adventure: The Marshall Plan and How America Helped Rebuild Europe.* Greg Behrman.

*My Life with the Taliban.* Abdul Salam Zaeef.

*On China.* Henry A. Kissinger.

*Prodigal Soldiers: How the Generation of Officers Born of Vietnam Revolutionized the American Style of War.* James Kitfield.

*The Quest: Energy, Security and the Remaking of the Modern World.* Daniel Yergin.

*That Used to Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World It Invented and How We Can Come Back.* Thomas Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum.

*The Utility of Force: The Art of War in the Modern World.* Rupert Smith.

*The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century.* Thomas L. Friedman.

*A World Restored: Metternich, Castlereagh and the Problems of Peace, 1812–1822.* Henry A. Kissinger. □