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*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

The New York Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States announces **Nicholas A. Lambert** as the winner of the RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature for his book ***The Neptune Factor: Alfred Thayer Mahan and the Concept of Sea Power***, published by Naval Institute Press; First Edition (February 15, 2024). **Hardcover** 440 pages **ISBN-10** : 1612511589 **ISBN-13** : 978-1612511580

Announced today by Past Commander William H Schmidt, Esq., and Vice Commander – Historian Daniel M. Thys, M.D., Co-Chairmen of the RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award Committee of the New York Commandery, the award will be presented to the winner by CDR John Cupschalk , USNR (Ret), Commander, New York Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States in a ceremony at The Racquet & Tennis Club on Park Avenue, New York City on Monday, November 4, 2024, 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm. For further information on the New York Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States and information on attending this event, please see the NY Commandery web site at navalordernyc.org

The prize is named for the late **Rear Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison**, a Harvard University history professor widely considered to be America’s most distinguished naval historian. The award is administered and presented by the New York Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States. The finalists and winner are selected by a distinguished committee of members of the New York Commandery. Books may be recommended for consideration by members of the Naval Order of the United States but must be nominated for Committee consideration by a Companion of the New York Commandery. There are detailed and stringent standards that must be met by the author and the work and the Committee follows set guidelines in considering the nominees.

The remaining four finalists for the 2024 RADM Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature (listed in alphabetical order, not by standing) each receive an Honorable Mention, and are highly commended for their books as outstanding contributions to naval literature. They are:

Richard D. Camp – *Lieutenant General Edward A. Craig: Warrior Six: Combat Leader in World War II and Korea* Publisher: Casemate; (February 8, 2023)

Stan Fisher – *Sustaining the Carrier War: The Deployment of U.S. Naval Air Power to the Pacific* Publisher: Naval Institute Press (March 15, 2023)

Phillip T. Parkerson – *The One Ship Fleet: The USS Boise – WWII Naval Legend 1938-1945* Publisher: Casemate (April 20, 2023)

Mark E. Stille – *Leyte Gulf: A New History of the World's Largest Sea Battle* Publisher: Osprey Publishing (June 20, 2023)

This distinguished writing prize is presented to an American author “who by his published writings has made a substantial contribution to the preservation of the history, heritage and traditions of the United States Sea Services – the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S. Flag Merchant Marine.”

A sample of past recipients includes 1984 **Victor H. Krulak**, (*First to Fight: An Inside View of the U.S. Marine Corps*); 1989 **John F. Lehman**, (*Command of the Seas: Building the 600 Ship Navy*); 1999 **Edward L. Beach, Jr.**, (*Salt and Steel: Reflections of a Submariner*); 2002 **Norman Friedman**, (*Seapower As Strategy: Navies and National Interests*); 2003 **John F. Lehman**, (*On Seas of Glory: Heroic Men, Great Ships, and Epic Battles of the American Navy*); 2004 **James D. Hornfischer**, (*The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors*); 2005 **Michael Walling**, (*Bloodstained Sea: The U.S. Coast Guard in the Battle of the Atlantic, 1941-1944*); 2006 **Joseph F. Callo**, (*John Paul Jones: America's First Sea Warrior*); 2007 **Ian W. Toll**, (*Six Frigates: Epic History of Founding of the US Navy*); 2008 **George C. Daughan**, (*If by Sea: Forging of the US Navy*); 2009 **James L. Nelson**, (*George Washington's Secret Navy: How the American Revolution Went to Sea*); 2010 **James Scott**, (*The Attack on the Liberty: The Untold Story of Israel's Deadly 1967 Assault on a U.S. Spy Ship*); 2011 **Robert Gandt**, (*The Twilight Warriors: The Deadliest Naval Battle of WWII*); 2012 **Elliot Carlson**, (*Joe Rochefort's War: The Odyssey of the Codebreaker Who Outwitted Yamamoto at Midway*); 2013 **Walter R. Borneman**, (*The Admirals: Nimitz, Halsey, Leahy, and King — The Five-Star Admirals Who Won the War at Sea*); 2014 **Jack Cheevers**, (*Act of War: Lyndon Johnson, North Korea, and the Capture of the Spy Ship Pueblo*); 2015 **Craig L. Symonds**, (*Neptune: The Allied Invasion of Europe and the D-Day Landings*); 2016 **Tim McGrath**, (*Give Me a Fast Ship: The Continental Navy and America's Revolution at Sea*); 2017 **Richard Snow**, (*Iron Dawn: The Monitor, the Merrimack, and the Civil War Sea Battle that Changed History*); 2018 **John F. Wukovits**, (*Tin Can Titans: The Heroic Men and Ships of World War II's Most Decorated Navy Destroyer Squadron*); 2019 **Hampton Sides**, (*On Desperate Ground: The Marines at the Reservoir, the Korean War's Greatest*

Battle); 2020 (*No Award – COVID*); 2021 **M. Ernest Marshall** (*Rear Admiral Herbert V. Wiley U.S. Navy: A Career in Airships and Battleships (History of Military Aviation)*); 2022 **Paul Stillwell** (*Battleship Commander: The Life of Vice Admiral Willis A. Lee Jr.* published by Naval Institute Press (October 15, 2021)); and, 2023 **Eric Jay Dolin** (*Rebels at Sea Privateering in the American Revolution*)

Former Navy Secretary **John F. Lehman** is the only author honored twice with the Morison Award (*Command of the Seas & On Seas of Glory*)

The **Naval Order of the United States**, founded in 1890, prides itself on its many distinguished members, among them Admirals George Dewey, William Leahy, Ernest King, Chester Nimitz, William Halsey, Raymond Spruance, Arleigh Burke, William Crowe, and Elmo Zumwalt. Its purpose is “to encourage research and writing on naval and maritime subjects, preserve documents, portraits and other records of prominent figures, deeds and memories of our naval and maritime history.”

About the Author

Nicholas A. Lambert:



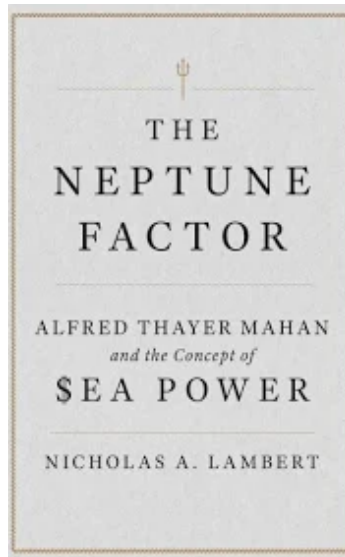
Nicholas A. Lambert

Nicholas Lambert is a naval historian and a leading authority on the strategic implications of globalization. He received his B.A. with a double major in economics and in history, his M.A. in history and economics, and his D.Phil. in modern history from Worcester College, University of Oxford. Afterwards, he held an Olin Fellowship at Yale University. In addition to *The Neptune Factor: Alfred Thayer Mahan and the Concept of Sea Power* (Naval Institute Press, 2023), he has written three other research monographs: *Planning Armageddon: British Economic Warfare and the First World War* (Harvard University Press, 2012), in which he pioneered the concept of weaponizing the infrastructure of the global trading system, and which was awarded the Norman B. Tomlinson Prize; *The War Lords and the Gallipoli Disaster: How Globalized Trade Led Britain to its Worst Defeat of the First World War* (Oxford University Press, 2021),

which was awarded the John Lyman Prize; and *Sir John Fisher's Naval Revolution* (University of South Carolina Press, 1999), which received both the Norman B. Tomlinson Prize and the Society for Military History's Distinguished Book Award. He is also the author of twenty research articles in leading journals. His most recent commentary has appeared in *Wall Street Journal* and the *Proceedings* of the US Naval Institute.

Lambert resides outside Philadelphia with his family, having previously lived in Washington, DC, as well as India, Taiwan, and Australia. From 2016 to 2018, he held the 'Class of 1957 Distinguished Chair in Naval Heritage' at the US Naval Academy and is privileged to be an honorary member of the Class of '57.

ABOUT *THE NEPTUNE FACTOR*



The Neptune Factor: Alfred Thayer Mahan and the Concept of Sea Power Hardcover
– February 15, 2024
by [Nicholas A. Lambert](#) (Author)

Foreword by **Admiral James Stavridis, USN (Ret.)**
Supreme Allied Commander, NATO, 2009-2013;
Dean, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, 2013-2018;
Chair, Board of Trustees, the Rockefeller Foundation.

Overview

The Neptune Factor is the biography of an idea—the concept of "Sea Power," a term first coined by Capt. A.T. Mahan and the core thread of his life's work. His central argument was that the outcome of rivalries on the seas have decisively shaped the course of modern history. Although Mahan's scholarship has long been seen as foundational to all systematic study of naval power, *Neptune Factor* is the first attempt to explain how Mahan's definition of sea power shifted over time.

Far from presenting sea power in terms of combat, as often thought, Mahan conceptualized it in terms of economics. Proceeding from the conviction that international trade carried across the world's oceans was the single greatest driver of national wealth (and thus power) in history, Mahan explained sea power in terms of regulating access to 'the common' and influencing the flows of trans-oceanic trade. A nation possessing sea power could not only safeguard its own trade and that of its allies but might also endeavor to deny access to its enemies and competitors.

A pioneering student of what is now referred to as the first era of globalization, lasting from the late nineteenth century until the First World War, Mahan also identified the growing dependence of national economies upon uninterrupted access to an interconnected global trading system. Put simply, access to 'the common' was essential to the economic and political stability of advanced societies. This growing dependence, Mahan thought, increased rather than decreased the potency of sea power.

Understanding the critical relationship between navies and international economics is not the only reason why Mahan's ideas remain—or rather have once again become—so important. He wrote in, and of, a multi-polar world, when the reigning hegemon faced new challenges, and confusion and uncertainty reigned as the result of rapid technological change and profound social upheaval. Mahan believed that the U.S. Navy owed the American people a compelling explanation of why it deserved their support—and their money. His extensive, deeply informed, and highly sophisticated body of work on sea power constituted his attempt to supply such an explanation. Mahan remains as relevant—and needed—today as he was more than a century ago.

Editorial Reviews

It could easily be argued that this is the most important book on American maritime power and naval thinking written since Mahan penned his own thoughts. ... There is no more sophisticated, comprehensive nor insightful representation of Mahan and his career, his decision making, his intellectual processes, his impact and influence, and his legacy than that presented within these pages. ...

The book is outstanding as an intellectual exercise ... It is **THE** book now for all professional military education institutions that declare they teach strategic thought, naval thinking, sea power, American naval history, or indeed imperial history.

--*Journal of Strategic Studies*, July 2024

Revisionist and radical though it may seem, Lambert's work is surely one of the best books ever published by the Naval Institute Press. *The Neptune Factor: Alfred Thayer Mahan and the Concept of Sea Power* is a deeply researched, clearly argued, and thought-provoking history of Mahan and his writings. Whether as applicable history or a detailed revision of prior interpretations, *Neptune Factor* succeeds. One cannot help but see pulled quotes and bureaucratic or political dynamics that have their analogy today. Go read *Neptune Factor*.

--*Proceedings*, May 2024

By reevaluating Mahan's theories in the context of global economic strategies rather than mere military tactics, Lambert provides a fresh lens through which to view early 20th-century international relations and ensures that "*The Neptune Factor*" contributes to the historical scholarship of naval history and strategic studies. ... In the current global climate, where economic influence and maritime security are increasingly intertwined (and pivotal to national prosperity), Lambert's reinterpretation of Mahan's work gains additional relevance. The book not only encourages but also necessitates modern strategists and policymakers to consider the broader implications of naval power on economic stability and international relations.

-- *National Security Institute*, (The SCIF) May 2024.

Lambert's new study of Alfred Thayer Mahan offers a fascinating and convincing series of arguments about a topic of clear relevance for today: sea power. [As he] traces the maturation of Mahan's ideas about sea power, the reader gets fresh accounts of Mahan's activities between articles and books The author closes the work by looking forward and broaching the idea that Mahan's ideas about the utility of sea power should replace the outdated "power projection" roles proposed in the 1950s by Samuel Huntington for the Cold War (pp. 339-41), precisely because the great "commons" are once again contested in the 21st century. ... Lambert's work here is vital and provides a means to understand why Mahan's intellectual sea power odyssey is still important today.

-- *Journal of Military History*, April 2024.

Lambert's] method, as in all his work, is not to proceed from received wisdom about his subject, but to go back to the original sources. The result is a book that explains - far better than any account of Mahan known to me - why he is still read in Beijing today, and why he would repay closer reading in Washington.

... [This] book underscores just how unfortunate the loss of the historical Mahan to myth has been, and why it is so important to recover him today. Manifestly, Lambert's Mahan-in-full is more relevant to contemporary US national-security policy than the legendary Mahan obsessed with "kinetic" combat operations. Does a conflict with China seem more likely to center on a Midway-style clash of aircraft carriers, or does it seem more likely to center on economic warfare, via deliberate derangement of the infrastructure of the global trading system in this, humanity's second era of globalized world trade?

--*Defense and Aerospace Report*, February 2024

From the Inside Flap
