

Introduction:

As a former Defense Minister of Georgia, I understand the significance of fostering a deep understanding of warfare and strategy among students, particularly those studying at the Military Academy of Georgia and individuals interested in defense affairs. The following list of books has been carefully selected to provide valuable insights into military history, strategic thinking, and the dynamics of warfare. These readings aim to broaden perspectives, cultivate critical thinking, and inspire future leaders in the field of defense.

Comprehensive Reading List for Strategic and Military Studies

Origins of War and Overview:

Quincy Wright – "A Study of War"

Geoffrey Blainey – "The Causes of War"

Michael Eliot Howard – "The Causes of War, Revised and Enlarged Edition"

Azar Gat – "War in Human Civilization"

Lawrence Freedman – "War"

Strategic Thought:

Carl von Clausewitz - "On War"

Sun Tzu – "The Art of War"

Antoine-Henri Jomini – "The Art of War"

Antulio J. Echevarria II - "Clausewitz and Contemporary War"

H. Liddell Hart - "Strategy: The Indirect Approach"

John Baylis, James J. Wirtz, Colin S. Gray - "Strategy in the Contemporary World: An Introduction to Strategic Studies"

Colin S. Gray - "The Strategy Bridge: Theory for Practice"

Peter Paret – "Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age"

Lawrence Freedman – "Strategy: A History"

Bernard Brodie – "War and Politics"

William Murray, McGregor Knox, Alvin Bernstein – "The Making of Strategy: Rulers, States, and War"

Michael I. Handel – "Masters of War: Classical Strategic Thought"

Beatrice Heuser – "The Strategy Makers: Thoughts on War and Society from Machiavelli to Clausewitz"

Martin van Creveld – "The Transformation of War"

Gérard Chaliand(Editor), Gerald Challard – "The Art of War in World History: From Antiquity to the Nuclear Age"

Colin S. Gray - "Strategy and Politics"

Thomas Shelling – "Arms and Influence"

Raymond Aron – "Clausewitz: Philosopher of War"

History:

M. Roberts, O. A. Westad - "The History of the World"

Michael Eliot Howard - "War in European History"

Victor Davis Hanson - "The Western Way of War: Infantry Battle in Classical Greece"

Edward Luttwak – "The Grand Strategy of the Byzantine Empire"

John Keegan - "The Second World War"

Michael Oren - "Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East"

David B. Ralston – "Importing the European Army: The Introduction of European Military Techniques and Institutions in The Extra-European World, 1600-1914"

Mark Clodfelter – "The Limits of Air Power: The American Bombing of North Vietnam"

John Keegan – "A History of Warfare"

Combat:

Richard Holmes - "Acts of War: Behavior of Men in Battle"

Jesse Glenn Gray – "The Warriors: Reflections on Men in Battle"

Lord Moran - "The Anatomy of Courage: The Classic WWI Study of the Psychological Effects of War"

John Keegan – "The Face Of Battle: A Study Of Agincourt, Waterloo And The Somme"

Derek Leebaert – "To Dare and to Conquer: Special Operations and the Destiny of Nations, from Achilles to Al Qaeda"

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

Military Technology:

Robert L. O'Connell - "Of Arms and Men: A History of War, Weapons, and Aggression"

Max Boot – "War Made New: Technology, Warfare, and the Course of History, 1500 to Today"

Irregular Warfare:

Ian F.W. Beckett - "Modern Insurgencies and Counter-Insurgencies: Guerrillas and Their Opponents Since 1750"

Max Boot - "Invisible Armies: An Epic History of Guerrilla Warfare from Ancient Times to the Present"

Sibylle Scheipers – "Unlawful Combatants: A Genealogy of the Irregular Fighter"

David Kilcullen – "The Accidental Guerrilla: Fighting Small Wars in the Midst of a Big One"

Logistics:

Martin van Creveld - "Supplying War: Logistics from Wallenstein to Patton"

Intelligence:

Abram N. Shulsky, Gary J. Schmitt – "Silent Warfare: Understanding the World of Intelligence"

Michael Bar-Zohar, Nissim Mishal - "Mossad: The Greatest Missions of the Israeli Secret Service"

War, Politics, Diplomacy, and State Building:

Robert D. Kaplan - "The Revenge Of Geography: What the Map Tells Us About Coming Conflicts and the Battle Against Fate"

Henry Kissinger – "Crisis: The Anatomy of Two Major Foreign Policy Crises"

Henry Kissinger – "Diplomacy"

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

Francis Fukuyama - "Political Order and Political Decay: From the Industrial Revolution to the Globalization of Democracy"

Dominique Moïsi - "The Geopolitics of Emotion: How Cultures of Fear, Humiliation, and Hope are Reshaping the World"

Daron Acemoğlu, James A. Robinson - "Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty"

Ian Bremmer - "The J Curve: A New Way to Understand Why Nations Rise and Fall"

Security Studies:

Paul D. Williams - "Security Studies: An Introduction"

Civil-Military Relations:

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

Barry R. Posen - "The Sources of Military Doctrine: France, Britain, and Germany Between the World Wars"

Samuel Huntington - "The Soldier and the State"

Lessons Learnt – Critical Approach:

Anthony D. Mclvor – "Rethinking the Principles of War"

Eliot A. Cohen - "Military Misfortunes: The Anatomy of Failure in War"

Jeffrey Record - "Making War, Thinking History: Munich, Vietnam, and Presidential Uses of Force from Korea to Kosovo"

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

Hew Strachan, Sibylle Scheipers – "The Changing Character of War"

Martin van Creveld – "The Sword and the Olive: A Critical History Of the Israeli Defense Force"

Michael D. Krause, Cody R. Phillips - "Historical Perspectives of the Operational Art"

Conclusion:

Embark on a journey of exploration and enlightenment through these thought-provoking books. By engaging with diverse perspectives and historical contexts, you will deepen your understanding of warfare, strategy, and the intricate dynamics of global security. May these readings inspire you to become critical thinkers, adept strategists, and visionary leaders in the realm of defense and military affairs.