



▶ Master General of Logistics: Professional Reading List



The Royal Logistic Corps Foundation ▶ 18 January 2024

To ensure that the British Army is not out-fought in any future conflict, HMG directs resources to help deliver the means for conducting successful operations. To ensure that the Army is not out-thought however requires a different strategy. Whilst every effort is provided to deliver comprehensive functional, operational and tactical training, it is incumbent that all ranks develop a personal interest in their chosen profession. For those wishing to improve their professional knowledge and communication skills, this reading list, sponsored by the RLC Foundation, has been carefully selected to help guide an informal, yet comprehensive self-study programme. These thought-provoking publications and multi-media products have been chosen to develop critical analytical skills by offering entry points to a broad range of topics categorised into pertinent themes. The list is not, and cannot be exhaustive, but to remain relevant, it will be reviewed annually. To ensure this, selected members of the RLC from across the ranks, academia and industry will be invited to publish regular book reviews throughout the year on the RLC Foundation website and in the annual *RLC Foundation Review*. Publications which attract positive, critical acclaim, will be considered for inclusion on the List. To this end, the Foundation welcomes suggestions for new submissions. The large majority of the listed publications can be obtained on loan to serving and retired personnel from The Prince Consort's Army Library in Aldershot. I commend this learning opportunity to every member of the RLC.

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Sponsored and compiled by the Royal Logistic Corps Foundation

Strategy

- ***Another Bloody Century: Future Warfare.* C.S. Gray.** (2005). An examination of potential future conflicts and defence policies that could address them.
- ***Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age.* P. Paget, G.A. Craig & F. Gilbert.** (1986). A series of essays that analyse war and its strategic characteristics over the past five centuries.
- ***Strategy: A History.* L. Freedman.** (2013). Describes what strategy is through historical analysis and a broad examination of all the facets related to strategies and its implications on the balance of power.
- ***The Dragons and the Snakes.* D. Kilcullen.** (2020). Examines what, opponents of the West have learned during the last quarter-century of conflict.
- ***Some Principles of Maritime Strategy.* J. Corbett.** (1911). Establishes the theory of war, and then the theory of naval war: from grand strategy to strategy utilising Britain as a case study.
- ***The Future of Power.* J.S. Nye.** (2011). Examines what it means to be forceful and effective in a world in which the traditional ideas of state power are being challenged by technology, and rogue actors.

- ***The Tragedy of Great Power Politics.* J.J. Mearsheimer.** (2011). Argues that due to the anarchic nature of the international system, states are consigned to focus on self-interest using a competitive philosophy of offensive realism.
- ***Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace.* H.J. Morgenthau.** (2006). Introduces the concept of political realism, presenting a realist view of power politics focusing on US foreign policy.
- ***The World America Made.* R. Kagan.** (2012). Advocates that the US should maintain its superpower status by continuing to lead the world order for the good of global democracy.
- ***The Evolution of Strategy.* B. Hauser.** (2010). A history of strategic thinking from the Romans to the twenty-first century, it provides vital detail for strategic studies and debates on international security.
- ***The Utility of Force.* R. Smith,** (2005). Offers a blueprint for how best to apply military force by describing how politicians have failed to apply its application in the past.
- ***The Internationalists: And their Plan to Outlaw War.* O. A. Hathaway and S. J. Shapiro.** (2017). Examines the origins of the current international legal order and why war remains a rational option in the anarchic international system.

Leadership/Management

- ***South.* E. Shackleton,** (1919). Describes the challenges of leadership in one of the most demanding, non-combative environments during the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914 to 1917.
- ***Defeat into Victory.* W. Slim.** (1956). Leadership and management lessons, primarily from command experience, gained from one of the most challenging campaigns of WW2.
- ***British Generals in Blair's War.* J. Bailey.** (2013). A series of first-hand testimonies about

Britain's involvement in recent campaigns by senior participants.

- ***The Mask of Command*. J. Keegan.** (1987). From defining leadership to identifying what makes a great military leader, four commanders are chosen as case studies.
- ***Command: The Politics of Military Operations from Korea to Ukraine*. L. Freedman.** (2022). An examination of the political and operational considerations that determine the effectiveness of command against the ever changing character of conflict.

History/Military History

- ***Sapiens: A brief history of Humankind*. Y. Harari.** (2011). A brief history of humankind from the evolution of archaic human species in the Stone Age up to the twenty-first century, focusing on Homo sapiens.
- ***Battle Cry of Freedom*. J.M. MacPherson.** (1988). Possibly the best one volume account of the American Civil War.
- ***The Face of Battle: A Study of Agincourt, Waterloo and the Somme*. J. Keegan.** (1976). Conveys the brutal reality for the participants of three major battles.
- ***All Hell Let Loose: The World at War 1939-1945*. M. Hastings.** (2011). A general history of the war examining the main strategic challenges using the experiences of the personalities from premiers to privates. Published in the US under the title, *Inferno*.
- ***The Storm of War: A New History of the Second World War*. A. Roberts.** (2009). A narrative on the evolution of Allied strategy through an examination of all fronts.
- ***The Liberation Trilogy*: R. Atkinson.** A series of authoritative accounts of the US forces in Europe.
 - ***An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942-1943*** (2002).

- ***The Day of Battle: The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943-1944*** (2007).
- ***The Guns at Last Light: The War in Western Europe, 1944-1945*** (2013).

- ***The Pacific War Trilogy*. I.W. Toll.** A comprehensive history of the Pacific War from across all three environments.
 - ***Pacific Crucible: War at sea in the Pacific, 1941-1942*** (2011).
 - ***The Conquering Tide: War in the Pacific Islands, 1942-44*** (2015).
 - ***Twilight of the Gods: War in the Western Pacific 1944-1945*** (2020).

Regional Studies/International Relations

- ***The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, P. Kennedy.** (1987). Explores the politics and economics of the Great Powers from 1500 to 1980 and the reason for their decline.
- ***Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*. M. Mazower.** (1998). Questions the validity of liberal democracy in Europe since 1900 by comparing it with communism and fascism.
- ***A Line in the Sand: The Anglo-French Struggle for the Middle East, 1914-1948*. J. Barr.** (2011). Traces the clandestine diplomatic agreement between Britain and France over the division of the Middle East and their subsequent three decades of competition.
- ***Lords of the Desert: Britain's Struggle with America to Dominate the Middle East*. J. Barr.** (2018). Describes the twenty-five years of UK/US competition in the Middle East.
- ***Prisoners of Geography: Ten maps that tell you everything you need to know about global politics*. T. Marshall.** (2015). An explanation why all leaders are constrained by geography.
- ***The New Silk Roads*. P. Frankopan.** (2019). Describes how ties along the Silk Roads have tightened between Russia, the Middle East and

China while the West increasingly looks to isolationism for security and power.

- ***World Order.* H. Kissinger.** (2014). Maps the evolution of the great states and empires and describes how they shape present day global relations.
- ***Flashpoints: The Emerging Crisis in Europe.* G. Friedman.** (2016). Focusing on geopolitical fault lines in Europe, a thesis is presented about the likeliest locations for future eruptions.
- ***Sleepwalkers: How Europe went to war in 1914.* C. Clark.** (2012). Presents a case on how Europe entered into the war to end all wars.
- ***The Retreat of Western Liberalism.* E. Luce.** (2017). Offers an opinion on the dangers that the West faces in the modern world.

Profession of Arms

- ***Quartered Safe Out Here.* G. MacDonald Fraser.** (1993). Perhaps the British equivalent of Sledge's, *With the Old Breed*. A depiction of the Burma Campaign from the front-line in all its life and death struggles.
- ***With the Old Breed.* E. Sledge.** (1981). The hard-bitten personal experiences of a US marine fighting on the islands of Peleliu and Okinawa.
- ***Learning to eat soup with a knife.* J. A. Nagi.** (2002). An examination of how armies adapt to changing circumstances during the course of conflicts for which they are initially unprepared.
- ***Blitzkrieg to Desert Storm: The Evolution of Operational Warfare.* R. M. Citino.** (2004). From its baptism in Europe during WW2, the application of operational warfare from the second half of the 20th Century to Desert Storm is critically examined.

- ***Nemesis: The Battle for Japan, 1944–45.* M. Hastings.** (2016). Provides a sound overview of the operations and killing grounds from South East Asia to the Pacific. It reveals the fracture lines between the Services on both sides, and the duplicity between British/Commonwealth and US strategies.
- ***Brute Force: Allied Strategy and Tactics in the Second World War.* J. Ellis.** (1990). Focuses on the economic dimension of WW2 and posits that the Allied victory was influenced more by their ability to overmatch the Axis Powers economically than any other factor.
- ***Defence Procurement Vols 1 and 2.* D. Moore.** (2011 and 2014). A series of case studies examining Defence procurement.
- ***The Right of the Line.* J. Terraine.** (1988). An examination of the RAF's contribution during WW2 from its structures to strategies and the key personalities.
- ***The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery.* P. Kennedy.** (1976). Sets British naval history within the context of international relations, offering an insight into the future of the Royal Navy within HMG strategic policies.
- ***Engineers of Victory: The Problem Solvers who turned the tide in the Second World War.* P. Kennedy.** (2013). Describes the science, management and luck that delivered the means for the Allies to fight WW2 from the Battle of the Atlantic to the assault on North West Europe.
- ***Amphibious Operations: The Projection of Sea Power Ashore.* M.H.H. Evans.** (1990). An analysis of amphibious operations and planning factors, utilising historical case studies.

Military/Commercial Logistics

- ***Alexander the Great and the Logistics of the Macedonian Army.* D.W. Engels.** (1980). Proof that logistic considerations are timeless, the effects of terrain, climate and supply on an

expeditionary land army are explained from first principles. From these considerations the needs of an army and the relationship of supply to strategy are exposed.

- ***The Lifeblood of War*. J. Thompson.** (1991). A study of how selected campaigns are influenced by logistics.
- ***A War of Logistics: Parachutes and Porters in Indochina, 1945-1954*. C. R. Shrader.** (2015). An in-depth study into the demise of the French in Indo China and the influence of logistics.
- ***The First Helicopter War: Logistics and Mobility in Algeria, 1954-1962*. C.R. Shrader.** (1999). Describes in detail how the French defeated the Algerian rebels on the battlefield through superior logistics, but eventually lost the diplomatic war.
- ***The Withered Vine: Logistics and the Communist Insurgency in Greece, 1945-1949*. C. R. Shrader,** (1999). A detailed explanation of how the Greek National Army defeated the Greek Communist Party and the vital influence of logistics in the campaign.
- ***Supplying War*. M. van Crefeld.** (1977). An examination of logistics using a wide range of case studies.
- ***Feeding Mars, Logistics in Western Warfare from The Middle Ages to the Present*. J.A. Lynn.** (1993). A series of essays which explains the importance and challenges of delivering logistics to western armies by examining all the major logistic functions.
- ***For Want of a Nail: The Impact on War of Logistics and Communications* K.J. Macksey.** (1989). A broad overview of logistics from the Crimea to the first Gulf War.
- ***The Box: How the Shipping Container Made the World Smaller and the World Economy Bigger*. M. Levinson.** (2006). Charts the rise of the ubiquitous intermodal container and how it changed international economics.

- ***Operations Management (7th Edition)*. N. Slack.** (2013). An introduction to modern Operations Management.
- ***Logistics: The Key to Victory*. J. Black.** (2021). Published as 'a world history of logistics,' readers will no doubt rightly assume that no single volume can fulfill such an assertive declaration. Recognising this oversight, the volume is still a useful addition to any logistician's bookshelf with an overview of selected key conflicts and their associated logistic challenges.
- ***Material World: A Substantial Story of Our Past and Future*. E. Conway.** (2023). An entertaining and thought-provoking examination of six of the most crucial substances in human history and how their supply chains work – and why they sometimes don't!

Fiction

- ***HMS Ulysses*. A. MacLean.** (1955). A story of human endurance and courage on a Murmansk convoy.
- ***The Naked and the Dead*. N. Mailer.** (1948). Arguably the greatest novel depicting ground combat in the Pacific during WW2. Its graphic descriptions resulted in the book almost being banned in the UK.
- ***For Whom the Bell Tolls*. E. Hemingway.** (1940). The story of a US volunteer attached to a Republican guerrilla unit during the Spanish Civil War.
- ***Catch-22*. J. Heller.** (1961). Describes the insanity of war through the experiences of a US bombardier torn between the catch of duty or personal survival.
- ***From Here to Eternity*. J. Jones.** (1951). The story of a US infantry company stationed in Hawaii prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor.

- ***The Thin Red Line.* J. Jones.** (1962). A novel based on the author's experiences of combat during the Guadalcanal campaign.
- ***All Quiet on the Western Front.* E. Remarque.** (1929). A story told from the German perspective of the physical deprivations and mental stress caused by combat in WW1 and the challenges of returning home.