**Strategic Thought, the Military & War**

This reading list covers the history of wars from artistic, intellectual, political to strategic dimensions. Its purpose is to show the breadth of writing on strategic thought, the military and war. It is not an exhaustive list of every work on these three topics. Rather it has well-known and lesser-known texts that show what has been written about and discussed in the history of war.  **Founding Texts**  
  
**Ancient**   
  
1. Julius Caesar - Commentaries on the Civil War (*Commentarii de Bello Civili*) (40 B.C.)  
2. Chanakya – *Arthashastra* (3rd century B.C.)  
3. Sextus Julius Frontinus – *Strategemata* (approx. 84 A.D.)4. Maurice – *Strategikon* (6th century A.D.)  
5. Publius Flavius Vegetius Renatus – *Epitoma rei militaris* (5th century, printed in 1473)  
6. Thucydides – *History of the Peloponnesian War* (around 431 BC)  
7. Sun Tzu - *Art of War* (5th century B.C.)8. Xenophon – *Anabasis* (370 B.C.)  
9. Jiang Ziya – *Six Secret Teachings* (11th Century BC)  
  
**Medieval, Renaissance, Ming Dynasty and Early Modern Europe**10. Balthazar Ayala - *De jure et officiis bellicis et disciplina militari* (1582)  
11. Francesco Balbi and Francisco Balbi, di Correggio - *The Siege of Malta* (1565)12. Niccolò Machiavelli - *Art of War* (*Dell'arte della guerra*) (1521)  
13. Liu Ji (Liu Bowen) – *Huolongjing* (Disputed pub. dates, various editions between 1368 - 1644).   
 **Eighteenth Century**  
  
14. Maurice de Saxe - *Mes Rêveries* (1757)  
15. Pierre-Joseph Bourcet - *Principes De La Guerre De Montagnes* (1775)   
16. Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban - *A Manual of Siegecraft and Fortification* (1669)  
17. Gerhard von Scharnhorst - *Handbook for Officers for Use in the Field* (1793)   
18. Frederick the Great - *Military Instruction from the King of Prussia to His Generals* (1747)  
  
**Nineteenth Century**  
  
19. Carl von Clausewitz - *On War* (1832)  
20. Henry Halleck - *Elements of Military Art and Science* (1860)  
21. Antoine-Henri de Jomini - *Summary of the Art of War* (1838)  
22. Ardant du Picq - *Battle Studies* (uncompleted work, 1870)  
23. Theodore Roosevelt - *The Naval War of 1812* (1882)  
  
**Twentieth Century**  
  
24. John Boyd - *Destruction & Creation* (1976).   
25. Hans Delbrück - *History of the Art of War, Volumes 1-4* (1920, English translation 1990)  
26. JFC Fuller - *The Foundations of the Science of War* (1926)  
27. Richard W. Harrison (ed) - *G. S. Isserson and the War of the Future: Key Writings of a Soviet Military Theorist* (2016)  
28. Liddell Hart - *Strategy* (1954)   
29. Heinz Guderian - *Achtung: Panzer!* (1937)  
30. Herman Kahn - *On Thermonuclear War* (1960)  
31. Erwin Rommel – Infantry Attacks (written in 1930s, English *trans.* 1944)  
32. Thomas Schelling - *The Strategy of Conflict* (1960)  
33. Boris Shaposhnikov - *The Brain of the Army* (1927-29)  
34. Donn Starry - *Mounted Combat in Vietnam* (1978)   
35. Alexander A. Svechin - *Strategy* (1927, rediscovered and translated into English 1992)   
36. Mao Tse-Tung – *Selected Military Writings* *of Mao* *Tse-Tung* (1966)  
37. Leon Trotsky - *War and the International* (1914)  
38. Emory Upton - *The Military Policy of the United States* (1912)  
39. Huba Wass de Czege - *Understanding and Developing Combat Power* (1984)  
40. J.C. Wylie - *Military Strategy, A Theory of Power Control* (1967)  
41. Roberta Wohlstetter - *Pearl Harbor: Warning and Decision* (1962)  
42. Albert Wohlstetter - *The Delicate Balance of Terror* (1958)   
 **Analytical Texts  
  
  
Primers**  
43. Ken Booth - *Strategy and Ethnocentrism* (1979)44. Antulio J. Echevarria II - *Military Strategy: A Very Short Introduction* (2017)  
45. Richard English - *Modern War: A Very Short Introduction* (2013)  
46. Lawrence Freedman - *Strategy: A History* (2013)  
47. Lawrence Freedman - *The Future of War: A History* (2019)  
48. John Lewis Gaddis - *On Grand Strategy* (2019)  
49. Joshua Goldstein - *War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War System and Vice Versa* (2009)  
50. Colin Gray - *Modern Strategy* (1999)  
51. Colin Gray - *The Strategy Bridge: Theory for Practice* (2014)  
52. Stephen Morillo and Michael F. Pavkovic - *What is Military History?* (2017)  
53. Laura Sjoberg - *Gender, War, and Conflict* (2014) **Revolutionary and Guerilla Strategy**54. Régis Debray - *Revolution in the Revolution?* (1967)  
55. Ernesto Che Guevara - *Guerrilla Warfare* (1960)  
56. Fred Kaplan - *The Insurgents: David Petraeus and the Plot to Change the American Way of War* (2013)  
57. David Kilcullen - *Out of the Mountains: The Coming Age of the Urban Guerrilla* (2015)  
58. "Yank" Levy – *Guerrilla Warfare* (1941)  
59. John Nagl *- Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam* (2002)  
60. Mao Tse-Tung - *Mao Tse-Tung on Guerilla Warfare* (1961)  
61. Paul Staniland - *Networks of Rebellion: Explaining Insurgent Cohesion and Collapse* (2014)  
62. T. E. Lawrence - *Seven Pillars of Wisdom (Revolt in the Desert)* (1922) **Histories of War**63. Joanna Bourke (ed.) *- War and Art: A Visual History of Modern Conflict* (2017)64. Edward Mead Earle - *Makers of Modern Strategy: Military Thought from Machiavelli to Hitler* (1943)  
65. Samuel Finer - *The Man on Horseback* (1974)  
66. James Fox - *British Art and the First World War, 1914–1924* (2015)  
67. Charles Hill - *Grand Strategies: Literature, Statecraft, and World Order* (2011)68. Michael Howard - *The Franco-Prussian War: The German Invasion of France 1870-1871* (1961)  
69. Isabel V. Hull - *Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany* (2005)  
70. Samuel P. Huntington - *The Soldier and the State Book* (1957)  
71. Frank Jacob and Gilmar Visoni-Alonzo - *The Military Revolution in Early Modern Europe* (2016)  
72. Morris Janowitz - *The Professional Soldier Book* (1966)  
73. John Andreas Olsen and Martin van Creveld (ed.) - *The Evolution of Operational Art: From Napoleon to the Present* (2010)  
74. Williamson Murray, Richard Hart Sinnreich and James Lacey (eds.) - *The Shaping of Grand Strategy: Policy, Diplomacy, and War* (2011)  
75. Williamson Murray and Peter R. Mansoor (eds.) - *The Culture of Military Organizations* (2019)  
76. John J. Mearsheimer - *Liddell Hart and the Weight of History* (1988)  
77. Azar Gat - *The Origins of Military Thought: From the Enlightenment to Clausewitz* (1989)  
78. Peter Paret, Gordon A. Craig, and Felix Gilbert (ed.) - *Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age* (1986)  
79. Ron Robin - *The Cold World They Made: The Strategic Legacy of Roberta and Albert Wohlstetter* (2016)  
80. Nicholas Saunders - *Trench Art: Materialities and Memories of War* (2003)  
81. Sam C. Sarkesian - *Revolutionary Guerrilla Warfare Theories, Doctrines, and Contexts* (1975)  
82. Tom Slevin - *Visions of the Human Art, World War I and the Modernist Subject* (2015)83. Hugh Thomas - *The Spanish Civil War* (1961/1965)84. Geoffrey Wawro - *The Austro-Prussian War: Austria's War with Prussia and Italy in 1866* (1997)  
85. Geoffrey Wawro - *The Franco-Prussian War: The German Conquest of France in 1870-1871* (2003)  
86. Terence Zuber - *Inventing the Schlieffen Plan German War Planning, 1871-1914* (2014)  
  
  
**Accounts of War**(This non-exhaustive list of books are either wholly factual, autobiographical, reportage or semi-fictional. What distinguishes them from other texts is their emphasis on personal reflections and stories.)

87. Svetlana Alexievich - *Boys in Zinc* (2017)  
88. Svetlana Alexievich - *The Unwomanly Face of War* (2018)  
89. Simon Akan - *The Changing of the Guard: The British Army Since 9/11* (2019)  
90. Tadeusz Bączkowski - *In Peace and War: Memoirs of an Exiled Polish Cavalry Officer* (2019)  
91. George Bowles - *A Guards Officer in the Peninsula And at Waterloo: The Letters of Captain George Bowles, Coldstream Guards 1807-1819.* (1870)  
92. Paula Broadwell - *All in: The Education of General David Petraeus* (2012)93. Léon Degrelle - *The Eastern Front: Memoirs of a Waffen SS Volunteer, 1941-1945* (2014)  
94. Joan Didion - *Salvador* (1983)  
95. Marguerite Duras - *The War: A Memoir* (written 1944, published 1985)  
96. Martha Gellhorn - *The Face of War* (1959)  
97. Patrick Hennessey - *The Junior Officers' Reading Club* (2009)   
98. Michael Herr - *Dispatches* (1977)  
99. Ernst Jünger – *Storm of Steel* (1920)  
100. Jean Lartéguy - *The Centurions* (1960)  
101. Jean Lartéguy - *The Praetorians* (1963)  
102. Stanley A. McChrystal - *My Share of the Task: A Memoir* (2012)  
103. Jim Mattis and Bing West - *Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead* (2019)  
104. Simon Murray - *Legionnaire: Five Years in the French Foreign Legion* (1978)  
105. Leo Tolstoy - *Sevastopol Sketches* (1855, English translated 1887)  
106. Leo Tolstoy - *The Cossacks* (1863, English translated 1878)