

Editor's Shelf

Throughout the journal's history we have utilized this feature to provide readers with knowledge of books that for one reason or another have not made their way into the formal review process. The feature has also afforded the journal's staff the opportunity to bring new works to our reader's attention in a timely manner. Of the hundreds of books we receive annually for review, only a limited number ever make their way to the "Book Reviews" section of the journal. For all those readers who, as me, characterize themselves as bibliophiles, we apologize. Apologize, in that, as a quarterly publication we are truly limited in the number of reviews we can actually provide. We are, however, fortunate in this feature to make available an eclectic array, demonstrating a broad diversity of thesis and authorship.

As America's military casts greater attention on the Asia-Pacific region, we are once again reminded of the critical importance associated with "jointness" and the ability of US Armed Forces to accomplish their assigned missions. To truly understand this relationship, one needs to have some insight into the history of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). Our friends at the Joint History Office have answered that call. Steven L. Rearden's *Council of War: A History of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1942-1991* draws on a combination of primary and secondary sources to provide a fresh examination of the organization from its origins in World War II through the end of the Cold War. Following on earlier works of the Joint History Office, Rearden presents a broad view of the history of JCS activities, both in war and peace, while affording the reader with unequalled insight into America's military history. The book is a must for any student of military history and national security policy.

Two of America's most respected military historians have joined forces to provide readers with a truly remarkable edited work detailing the history of "hybrid warfare." Williamson (Wick) Murray and Peter Mansoor's *Hybrid Warfare: Fighting Complex Opponents from the Ancient World to the Present* explains that hybrid warfare has been around since the beginning of time. The editors present nine historical examples of hybrid warfare, from Rome to the present day, giving readers a contextual understanding that this type of warfare is not new or unique. Great powers have been confronted by foes utilizing a combination of regular and irregular forces on a regular basis throughout history. The editors have assembled what can only be described as a "world-class" group of authors. Each chapter is not only insightful and informative, but provides some of the best descriptions of the history of warfare available.

A topic that has supported a number of recent headlines and talk shows is the role that senior military officers and their equivalents play in the modern strategic environment. The eminent author, political scientist, and statesman Carnes Lord bases the book's thesis on the belief that a number of America's combatant commanders and their equivalents in the civilian sector have taken on the role once reserved for Roman and British leadership, that of "proconsul." The author provides a historical analysis of the phenomenon of proconsulship and how it has manifested itself in American history. *Proconsuls: Delegated Political-Military Leadership from Rome to America Today* begins with an

examination of such great men as Leonard Wood in Cuba and William Howard Taft's exploits in the Philippines. Lord traces the works of any number of these larger than life personalities throughout history to the present day, concluding with the likes of L. Paul Bremer and David Petraeus in Iraq. The book is rich with insight as to how these proconsuls affected American security policy. One of the blurbs on the book's cover succinctly captures the value of this work with the assessment, "Like it or not . . . these statesmen were proconsuls on something like the Roman model, and they are not likely to be the last of their kind dispatched abroad by the government of the United States."

In today's uncertain and volatile strategic environment, nonproliferation is once again becoming a major concern for governments around the globe. Just how effective America has been in controlling the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) since the end of the Cold War serves as the thesis for Joseph R. Cerami's splendid work *Leadership and Policy Innovation—From Clinton to Bush*. The author, a distinguished lecturer in National Security Policy and Director of the Public Service Leadership Program at the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University, provides readers with an entirely new view of the policies and leadership responsible for countering the proliferation of WMD during the last decade. He examines patterns of organizational leadership and policy innovation on the part of those responsible for developing and implementing initiatives designed to counter WMD during the Clinton administration. This insightful analysis of international relations and public administration provides the reader with greater understanding of how such complex policies are developed. This book is a must for any student or practitioner of American foreign policy in times of crisis or uncertainty.

Understanding War in Afghanistan is an intellectual primer on the war in that nation by Joseph J. Collins, one of America's foremost military minds. The author has studied the conflict in Afghanistan for over three decades, both as a soldier and academic. Collins intends his work to provide military leaders, civil servants, diplomats, and students with the intellectual basis for study or assignment in Afghanistan. He presents a straightforward treatise essential in preparing one for any military or governmental assignment in the region. Likewise, students and scholars will find the monograph provides an unparalleled foundation for future study. Collins presents an insider's view of the land and its people, the history of the nation, and an assessment of the situation (military and political) during the 2002-10 period of the conflict. This concise presentation is without doubt a valuable reference for any leader or scholar desiring a greater understanding of one of the more violent and inhospitable regions of the globe. This work should be part of the predeployment planning for individuals, military or civilian, going to Afghanistan. It certainly would not hurt if a few members of the US Congress also happened to read the piece. – RHT □