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NYMAS Civil War Book Award for 2004

The Memory of the Civil War in American Culture,

edited by Alice Fahs and Joan Waugh.

In the last several years many historians have emphasized how the cultural memory of the Civil War differs from the history of that conflict. Books that explore this area include Carol Reardon's *Pickett's Charge in History and Memory*, Nina Silber's *The Romance of Reunion*, David Blight's *Race and Reunion*, and Susan-Mary Grant and Peter Parish's edited volume, *Legacy of Disunion*. *The Memory of the Civil War in American Culture* is part of this trend. The volume contains eleven essays (four of which, previously published, have been revised for this volume), that look at how the meanings of the Civil War have changed over time, with each new generation using its own interpretation to support its own social and political agenda (such as proponents of the Lost Cause myth, and participants in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s).

The Memory of the Civil War in American Culture evolved from a 2003 conference held at the Huntington Library, which itself developed from a session at the 1999 annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians entitled "What Do Military and Cultural Historians of the Civil War Have to Say to Each Other?" I believe that if you asked many NYMAS members this question, they would answer "not a great deal." Even this book only has two authors, James McPherson and Gary Gallagher, who have dealt extensively with the military dimensions of the Civil War. Due to the book's concentration on the war's place in American culture, both past and present, those whose interest focuses solely on the military aspects of the conflict may not find much to interest them here (with the exception of the first two essays, which show how generals of both North and South argued their cases for the rightness of their respective causes).

The essays in this book look at how the memory of the Civil War has been employed in various aspects of American life – monuments, parades, political campaigns, publishing, generals' memoirs. The essays tend to use time to examine geographies of memory, as opposed to the usual strict sectional North/South analysis. Stuart McConnell's epilogue addresses this idea extremely well. He shows how memories compete for cultural space within power structures which existed at various times in American history.

Several of the essays, especially David Blight's, address how both Northern indifference and a desire

for national reconciliation allowed the South's view of the Civil War to prevail, and caused the emancipatory potential of the conflict for African-Americans to not be fulfilled for another century. Reconciliation was dependent on memory as depicted in literature and art as much as on politics. Alice Fahs' exploration of how children's literature changed over time, so that by the 1890s it helped perpetuate Jim Crow ideology, is particularly fascinating.

Readers who are interested in the continuing importance, and ever-changing perception, of the Civil War in American society will find this book a great addition to the growing literature in this area.

The Memory of the Civil War in American Culture, edited by Alice Fahs and Joan Waugh. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004. Pp. 286. Illus., notes, index. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 0-8078-5572-3.

--Mark Berkowitz, NYMAS

Iraq & the "GWOT"

America the Vulnerable: How Our Government is Failing to Protect us from Terrorism, by Stephen Flynn. New York: HarperCollins, 2004. Pp. xviii, 234. Notes, index. \$29.95. ISBN: 0-06-057128-4.

A very accurate line in the introduction sets the theme for this work, "Our nation faces grave peril, but we seem unwilling to mobilize at home to confront the threat before us." In Flynn's view, little has occurred since the 9/11 attacks to improve domestic security from terrorism. He makes a very strong case, citing missed opportunities, poor allocation of resources, a general reluctance on the part of the private sector and the public sector, including government at all levels, to take homeland protection seriously, and more. Why, for example, do we have a "National Security Council" and a "National Homeland Security Council" – would not a single body help reduce seams and increase cooperation?

In a series of chilling scenarios, Flynn, a retired Coast Guard officer and veteran security analyst for the Council on Foreign Relations, paints a picture of our vulnerability. And he also takes a look at possible solutions, some of the surprisingly simple or cheap, and others complex and costly. An important book.

Bashrah, Baghdad, and Beyond: The U.S. Marine Corps in the Second Iraq War, by Col. Nicholas E. Reynolds, USMC (*Ret.*). Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2005. Pp. xi, 276. Illus., maps, append, notes, biblio., index. \$32.95. ISBN: 1-59114-717-4.

A straight-forward narrative account of the Marine Corps role in the conventional phase of "Operation

Iraqi Freedom.” The book begins with a look at the Afghanistan operation, goes on to discuss the planning and the preparation by I MEF, and then plunges into the operations, with a fast-paced narrative and a surprising attention to detail, carrying the Marines through to the end of conventional operations and the start of the occupation. There is a useful chapter on lessons learned, and several appendices that provide valuable supporting data, which is also scattered through the book in the form of side bars. Though in the preface John W. Ripley, the Director of Marine Corps History and Museums, observes that this is *not* a finished history of the war, but a “necessarily imperfect, incomplete, and subjective” first draft, it is nevertheless a very good first draft.

A Carrier at War: On Board the USS Kitty Hawk in the Iraq War, by Richard F. Miller. Washington: Potomac Books, 2005. Pp. xiii, 242. Illus., map, index. \$26.95. ISBN: 1-57488-960-5

An account of naval and air operations during the three week campaign against Iraq in 2003, by a Civil War historian and journalist who served as an “embed” aboard *Kitty Hawk*, and then spent a short while in Baghdad. *A Carrier at War* is a well written diary of his experiences. As befits an historian who has focused on the common soldier and his world, Miller’s account is particularly strong on people, from an admiral or two down to the youngest sailors on their first sea tours.

On Point: The United States Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom, by Gregory Fontenot, E. J. Degen, and David Thon. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2005. Pp. xviii, 539. Illus., maps, append., gloss., notes, biblio., index. \$33.95. ISBN: 1-59114-279-2.

Written by a retired colonel and two active lieutenant-colonels, *On Point* begins with a short, but useful discussion of Operation Desert Storm, in 1991, the evolution of the Army between the First and Second Iraq Wars. Following a long chapter on the planning and preparations for the campaign, there are four chapters that recount the course of operations in considerable detail, and not just those of the Army, but also of the Marine Corps, the British, and various Coalition partners. The final two chapters deal with lessons learned and an analysis of the causes of American success. There is little treatment of the ensuing occupation. A number of side bars provide in-depth looks at interesting incidents in the campaign, and the appendix provides an enormous amount of data on the participating force. A good “first draft” treatment of the operational phase of the war.

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### The Royal Navy

*The Command of the Ocean: A Naval History of Britain, 1649-1815*, by N.A.M. Rodger. New York: W.W. Norton, 2004. Pp. lxxv, 907. Illus., maps, chron, append., notes, biblio., index. \$45.00. ISBN: 0-393-06050-0.

The second of a three volume series on the naval history of Britain, the author’s purpose is to “put naval affairs back into the history of Britain,” given a recent trend to overlook, or at best take for granted, the maritime dimension of the island nation’s history. This is a rich book, heavy with notable personalities, technology, seafaring lore, battles, blockades, and more. And all of it is intertwined with the political, social, and economic evolution of Britain. *The Command of the Ocean* is a very valuable work, but not for the casual reader.

*The Ships of Trafalgar: The British, French, and Spanish Fleets, October 1805*, by Peter Goodwin. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2005. Pp. 256. Illus., maps, diagr., tables, append., biblio., index. \$24.95. ISBN: 1-59114-824-3.

Goodwin, the “Keeper & Curator of HMS *Victory*,” has produced a sort-of *Jane’s Fighting Ships* for the vessels present at the Battle of Trafalgar. But his work goes into far more detail on each ship than that reference to modern fleets. Coverage of each ship includes not only traditional data about dimensions and armament, but also a surprisingly detailed history of its design, construction, service, and ultimate fate. This makes the work an unusually useful reference for anyone interested not just in Trafalgar, but of naval warfare in the history of the age of sail in general.

*The Terror before Trafalgar: Nelson, Napoleon, and the Secret War*, by Tom Pocock. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2002. Pp. xvi, 255. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$16.95 paper. ISBN: 1-59114-681-X.

An account of the role of Nelson in coping with the “French Threat.” While *The Terror before Trafalgar* takes up the story with the onset of the Revolutionary Wars, its primary focus is Napoleon’s plans to invade England, set in motion after the resumption of war in 1803. The book provides an excellent look at French preparations for a possible invasion, including the question of whether Napoleon was ever serious about the matter, and, more importantly, the measures taken by the British to prepare for the possibility. As a result, although this is essentially a popular treatment, it will be of value to serious students of the wars as well.

*Augustus Hervey’s Journal: The Adventures Afloat and Ashore of a Naval Casanova*, edited by David Erskine. London: Chatham Publishing, 2002. Pp. xxxv, 349. Illus., map, append., notes, index. \$No price given paper. ISBN: 1-86176-123-6.

A son of the Earl of Bristol, Hervey served in the Royal Navy during the middle decades of the eighteenth century. His diary, which covers about a dozen years from the mid-1740s, is more than just a memoir of a “Naval Casanova.” To be sure there are plenty of women and seductions and such adventures. But there is also a great deal about life in the Royal Navy in the period, including some notable sea fights, plus the execution of Admiral Byng (which Hervey roundly

opposed), as well as some excellent insights into the life of the upper classes in the period. A reprint of the original edition of 1953, the work includes an interesting introduction and explanatory footnotes by the editor, a distant kinsman of the admiral.

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Nineteenth Century

The Battle: A New History of Waterloo, by Alessandro Barbero, translated by John Cullen. New York: Walker & Co., 2005. Pp. xxiii, 240. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$28.00. ISBN: 0-8027-1453-6,

An award winning Italian novelist and amateur historian, Alessandro Barbero focuses firmly on the events of June 18, 1815 in and around Waterloo. With surprising skill he manages to set the battle within the overall framework of the events of 1815. The description of the battle unfolds in a series of short chapters –there are 70 altogether. This, plus the careful integration of short looks at organization, tactics, and personalities within the framework of the unfolding events, lends the book considerable dramatic flair. He also makes some innovative conclusions, for example, arguing that there was less difference among the various armies than is usually thought, with all of them having substantial numbers of seasoned men, and with the British having particularly good officers. A valued contribution to Napoleonic literature.

Reforming the Tsar's Army: Military Innovation in Imperial Russia from Peter the Great to the Revolution, edited by David Schimmelpenninck van der Oye and Bruce W. Menning. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press/Washington: Woodrow Wilson Center, 2004. Pp. xi, 361. Illus., notes, index. \$65.00. ISBN: 0-521-81988-1.

A collection of essays on various aspects of Russian military reform, by some of the most notable scholars in the field. The 18 essays are grouped into five broad categories, covering national resources, intelligence and education, specific wars and campaigns, personalities, and some broad conclusions. Of particular value to the serious student of Russian military history, some of the essays are likely to be useful for persons interested in particular aspects of the practice of war, such as conscription, or the Napoleonic Wars.

Lt. Charles Gatewood & His Apache Wars Memoir, by Charles B. Gatewood, edited and with an introduction by Louis Kraft. Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press, 2005. xxvii, 283. Illus., map, append., notes, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN: 0-8032-2772-8. Lt. Gatewood had a relatively short military career, scarcely a decade from his graduation from USMA in 1877. But it was an unusually interesting career, as he commanded Apaches scouts and was a personal friend of the great Geronimo. A man of great integrity, he ruined his career by championing the rights of the Indians in 1884, and never rose above first lieutenant as a result, dying a few years later as a result of injuries. His memoir is unusually rich in detail about

the frontier, the Apache, and contemporary culture. The introduction and commentary provided by the editor, along with his notes, serve to make this work an even more valuable resource on the times and events. A very good work for anyone interested in the Indian fighting army.

The Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895: Perceptions, Power, and Primacy, by S.C.M. Paine. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005. Pp. xi, 412. Maps, notes, biblio., index. \$29.95 paper. ISBN: 0-521-61745-6.

Arguably the first comprehensive treatment of the subject in English ever, this work provides a political, diplomatic, cultural, and military survey of the dramatic confrontation between Japan and China that overturned the entire balance of power in the Far East. Given Wesertners' lack of knowledge of the history of the region, the author provides very deep background material, providing a look at some of the centuries-long threads that came together to result in the war, and to its political and diplomatic consequences. Due to its comprehensive nature, the book is less valuable as an account of the military events of the war, which is satisfactory, but flawed by some surprising errors in terminology and focus

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**World War II**

*Visions of Victory: The Hopes of Eight World War II Leaders*, by Gerhard L. Weinberg. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005. Pp. xxiv, 292. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$25.00. ISBN: 0-521-85254-4.

A look at the evolution and influence of the war aims of the leaders of the principal warring powers – Hitler, Mussolini, Tojo, Chiang, Stalin, Churchill, de Gaulle, Roosevelt – and how close they came to realization. In a well-written book, Weinberg shows how each leader's personality and the culture and politics of his society helped shape his goals and his conduct of the war. Arguing, rather persuasively, that most of these leaders had essentially nineteenth century views of the world, Weinberg concludes perhaps not surprisingly, that the leader who came closest to achieving his goals was FDR (American global primacy, democratic regimes in Japan and Germany, decolonialization, world organization, etc.). More surprisingly, he concludes that second place must be accorded to Chiang (a strong, united, modernized China free of foreign infringement!). A very important book for anyone interested in World War II or the grand strategy of the twentieth century.

*A Colonel in the Armored Divisions: A Memoir, 1941-1945*, by William S. Triplet, edited and with an introduction by Robert. H. Ferrell. Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 2001. Pp. xii, 301. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 0-8262-1312-X.

An enlisted veteran of World War I, Triplet had remained in the Army, gone to West Point, and by the eve of World War II was a tanker. His account of World War II is lively and often humorous, and includes service training armored units and amtrack units. Although he didn't get into combat until some time after D-Day, he more than made up for lost time, ending the war in command of a Combat Command, one which had the unique distinction of capturing a German warship. The book is full of interesting, usually valuable little tidbits about military life and the development of the armored force, such as how Triplet – and some others – figured out the optimal way to load tanks on to LSTs, or the benefits of building LSTs up the Mississippi (on their run down to the Gulf, they would occasionally ground on mudflats, providing the crews with some realistic training in getting off a beach). A good read, and worthwhile for anyone interested in armor or the war in Europe.

*The Dead of Winter: How Battlefield Investigators, WW II Veterans, and Forensic Scientists Solved the Mystery of the Bulge's Lost Soldiers*, by Bill Warnick. New York: Chamberlain Bros/Penguin, 2005. Pp. iv, 312+. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$24.95. ISBN: 1-59609-085-5.

The often moving and highly inspiring story of how, during the 1990s, a group of volunteers from the U.S., Belgium, and some other countries, worked together to help recover and identify the remains of American soldiers from the 99<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division who had been killed during the Battle of the Bulge. The book briefly covers the events of the battle as it affected the 99<sup>th</sup> Division, and then proceeds through the story of how the international group of volunteers came together, developed a research program, battled with bureaucrats and scoffers, exploited modern scientific techniques, and more, to recover the remains of scores of soldiers who now lie in honored graves.

*Forgotten Armies: The Fall of British Asia, 1941-1945*, by Christopher Bayly and Tim Harper. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2005. Pp. xxxiii, 555. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 0-674-01748-X.

A comprehensive history of the Second World War in Southeast Asia. The "Forgotten Armies" of the title, include not only the British and Indian, but also the local colonial defense forces, as well as the Japanese and the anti-colonial forces that the Japanese raised, such as the Burma National Army and the Indian National Army, and even the lesser actors, such as the Thais, the French, and the many guerrilla forces. But the book goes beyond just talking about armies. A great deal of attention is paid to political, cultural, social, and economic matters, to help explain how the war in Southeast Asia turned out as it did, with the victorious British – and other colonial powers – faced with the fact that they had recovered the colonies lost to the Japanese, only to lose them again almost immediately.

*The Second Attack on Pearl Harbor: Operation K and the Other Japanese Attempts to Bomb America in World War II*, by Steve Horn. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2005. Pp. viii, 347. Append., gloss., notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 978-1-59114-388-8.

The March 1942 attempt to bomb Pearl Harbor using giant "Emily" flying boats in coordination with submarines to refuel them forms the centerpiece of this work, and is quite well done. The book also delves into the other Japanese attempts to strike at American territory as well. This includes the handful of actual submarine, air, and balloon attacks on the West Coast. But the author also devotes some attention to Japanese schemes that never materialized, such as attacking the *East Coast* using "Emilys" in conjunction with German submarines. Although the book is somewhat rambling and, quite surprisingly, lacks maps or illustrations, it provides a good look at an obscure but interesting aspect of the Pacific War.

*War in the Wild East: The German Army and Soviet Partisans*, by Ben Shepherd. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2004. Pp. vi, 300. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 0-674-01296-8.

A look at the partisan war in Russia. Opening with an overview of the evolution of German occupation policy, including background on the composition of the officer corps, Nazi ideology, and perceptions of the Soviet Regime, then proceeds to focus on the operating area of the German 221<sup>st</sup> Security Division, in eastern Belarus and western Russia. The work is drawn almost entirely from German primary sources, and paints a very grim tale.

*Hitler Youth*, by Michael H. Kater. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2004. Pp. 355. Notes, index. \$27.95. ISBN: 0-674-01496-0.

An account of the Hitler Youth that discusses its origins and growth, and its role in the Nazi movement and the German war effort; although the book is not primarily a military history, there is a good account of the organization and operations of the 12<sup>th</sup> SS Division, composed largely of Hitler Youth. The book includes numerous first person accounts and many word portraits of Hitler Youth members and leaders. In the process of telling this story, the author also provides a look at German youth movements in the early twentieth century, including scouting, Catholic youth groups, and various leftist youth organizations, and shows how the Nazis systematically co-opted or destroyed them. A useful book for anyone interested in the history of Nazism or World War II.

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U.S. Naval History

From the Flight Deck: An Anthology of the Best Writing on Carrier Warfare, edited by Peter B. Mersky. Washington: Potomac Books, 2003. Pp. xxi,

341. Illus., index. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 1-5748-8612-6.

Over 30 selections by naval aviators, historians, or journalists about naval aviation in peace and war, from Eugene Ely's pioneering test flight in 1910 to the advent of women combat pilots in the 1990s. Included are some excellent historical snap shots of actions in the world wars and many other conflicts, through the Balkans in the late-1990s. The work also includes narrative overviews, memoirs, and even some fiction. Although one might quibble about whether other writings were more worthy to be included than some of the selections here, this work nevertheless provides a very vivid look at the development of carrier aviation.

Historic Naval Aircraft: From the Pages of Naval History Magazine, by Norman Polmar. Washington: Brassey's, 2004. Pp. xii, 165. Illus., gloss., append, biblio., index. \$34.95. ISBN: 1-57488-572-3.

Historic Naval Aircraft deals with 31 of the most famous and not so famous aircraft that have served in the U.S. Navy since the early 1920s. The essays are uniformly about 500 words long, and provide a short profile of the interesting technological or historic aspects of the aircraft in question, and include a number of illustrations. Although the work covers six different types of aircraft (fighters, attack, patrol, scouting, transport, and helicopters), it notably omits the Navy's long interest in lighter-than-air vehicles. A good book for the novice or the completist.

The Admiral's Advantage: U.S. Navy Operational Intelligence in World War II and the Cold War, by Christopher Ford and David Rosenberg. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2005. Pp. xxi, 219. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$37.50. ISBN: 1-59114-282-2.

An account of the influence of intelligence on U.S. naval operations, which stresses that it not so much the collection of information that is critical, as is its collation and fusion into actionable information. The focus of the work is actually on the Cold War, though there is an interesting, if short, discussion of World War II, including a look at British experience. The work covers the principles and patterns of intelligence analysis, the training of personnel, and the increasing importance of technology during the Cold War. A valuable book for the specialist in intelligence and Cold War naval operations.

On the Warpath in the Pacific: Admiral Jocko Clark and the Fast Carriers, by Clark Reynolds. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2005. Pp. xiii, 537. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index, CD. \$36.95. ISBN: 1-59114-716-6.

Having helped Admiral Clark write his memoirs, *Carrier Admiral* (1967), Clark Reynolds, noted historian of naval aviation and son of the admiral's favorite wartime aide, here draws upon that experience, as well as many years of close association with the admiral, and numerous interviews,

documents, and published materials to produce a comprehensive account of the Admiral's life. Although a relative late-comer to naval aviation – World War I delayed his transfer to flight school – Clark became one of the most innovative naval airmen, devising many of the techniques that have characterized carrier operations from World War II to the present. This is a valuable work for anyone interested in the navy in the mid-twentieth century, and in naval aviation in particular.

A Call to the Sea: Captain Charles Stewart of the USS Constitution, by Claude Berube and John Rodgaard. Washington: Potomac Books, 2005. Pp. xvi, 299. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$35.00. ISBN: 1-5748-8518-9.

This is the first biography of Charles Stewart, the least well-known of the fighting frigate captains of America's early naval wars. Yet Stewart served in the Navy from George Washington's day until Lincoln's, longer than any other man in history, and fought some notable actions. The book is well-written, and takes a "life and times" approach. Not only is there a detailed treatment of Stewart's service in several wars and sea fights – and he was in a remarkable number of both, including the most celebrated of fights of the frigate *Constitution* – but it also provides an excellent look at the naval service from the age of fighting sail to the onset of ironclad warships, while also giving the reader some insights in the customs and life style of the era. A valuable book for anyone interested in the history of the Navy and America's wars from the Quasi-War with France to the Civil War.

Sweet Pea at War: A History of USS Portland (CA-33), by William Thomas Generous, Jr. Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 2003. Pp. xiii, 290. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 0-8131-9121-1.

USS Portland had a busy war, and particularly so in 1942, when she fought in the Battles of Coral Sea, Midway, Eastern Solomons, Santa Cruz, and Guadalcanal, the only ship to have taken part in all five of the major naval actions of that year. But *Sweet Pea* is about much more than just those notable occasions. The book begins with the ship's construction, goes on to the routine of the peacetime Navy before the war, through the heroic years of World War II, and beyond, to the ship's final demise, in a scrap yard in 1959, and her living memorial, in the form of reunions. The book contains a great deal of material on the daily life and routine of sailors, both in combat and not, provides a number of interesting looks at some of the men who made up the crew, and gives an excellent "sailor's eye view" of the war.

Combat Corpsman: The Vietnam Memoir of a Navy SEAL Medic, by Greg McPartlin. New York: Berkley, 2005. Pp. 319. \$15.00 paper. ISBN: 0-425-20582-7.

A very vivid, lively account of a young man who joined the Navy in order to become a combat medical

corpsman with the Marines, only to transfer to the SEALs. The work delves deeply into the daily life and war of special operators, providing a ground level view of the war in the shadows. It also discusses many of the hard issues that modern warfare presents, such as the disconnect between the traditional “Laws of War” and the realities of modern combat.

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**The Great War**

In scholarly circles, the First World War has been attracting increasing attention as the critical event molding the twentieth century, all else essentially deriving from it. As John Keegan observed, responsibility for the war’s outbreak “continues to defy attempts at explanation.” Over the years historians, politicians, journalists, and political scientists have shifted back and forth from various conspiracy theories blaming either the Entente or Germany, or perhaps Austria, or – from the other side of the front – France and Russia, to the “Terrible Ifs” theory, perhaps most famously expounded by Barbara Tuchman. The publication a generation ago of Fritz Fischer’s *Germany’s Aims in the First World War*, has tended to focus on deliberate decisions by German and Austrian leadership, but the debate goes on, as also the efforts to elucidate the nature of the war.

*Europe’s Last Summer: Who Started the Great War in 1914?*, by David Fromkin. New York: Knopf, 2004. Pp. xiii, 349. Illus., map, append., notes, biblio., index. \$26.95. ISBN: 0-375-41156-9.

*Europe’s Last Summer* furthers this argument, marshalling an impressive body of material, much of it previously unavailable until the collapse of the Iron Curtain. Fromkin builds a solid case, pointing out how diplomatic settlements of earlier crises were perceived as defeats by German political and military leaders obsessed with their increasing isolation in the world, and the looming danger that the collapse of Austria-Hungary, combined with a rising Russia, might expose Germany to ultimate defeat.

*The Origins of World War I*, edited by Richard F. Hamilton and Holder H. Herwig. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003. Pp. xiii, 537. Maps, append., notes, biblio, index. \$60.00. ISBN: 0-521-81735-8.

After a pair of introductory essays that discuss the concept of “world war” and review the European wars of the nineteenth century, the editors and nine other scholars examine the reasons why the various nations – including the U.S. and various minor powers – ultimately became involved. There are wrap-up essays discussing *why* it came to a world war and what were the fundamental causes of the war. In general, the essays are good, but, save for an item or two in German or French, all the works cited in the notes are in English, which hardly suggests that the “local” perspective in countries like Italy, Turkey, Bulgaria, and so forth is adequately treated. Never-theless, the

essays do provide thoughtful analyses of the factors impelling the various nations to war, which, in most cases, prove to have been less the result of aggressive urges than to fear that by *not* acting, they might lose power and influence, factors that particularly drove Austro-Hungarian and German decision making. An interesting and valuable work.

*The Decisions for War: 1914-1917*, by Richard F. Hamilton and Holder H. Herwig. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004. Pp. xvi, 266. Maps, biblio, index. \$17.99 paper. ISBN: 0-521-54530-7.

In contrast to the highly scholarly *The Origins of World War I*, *The Decision for War* is aimed at a more general readership. Drawing upon the earlier work, the authors look at the actual process of decision-making that led each of the belligerents into the war. Some of their conclusions are unusual. In each country, the decision for war was made by a relatively small group, which often did not include some notably important political or military leaders and in all countries the influence of moneyed interests or industry was largely against war. Of course, the work generally supports the essential conclusion of the earlier book, that the nations acted to avoid losing influence, rather than to expand their power.

*German Strategy and the Path to Verdun: Erich von Falkenhayn and the Development of Attrition, 1870-1916*. by Robert T. Foley. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005. Pp. xiv, 301. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$70.00. ISBN: 0-521-84193-3.

In many ways a ground-breaking look at Erich von Falkenhayn’s contributions to the German war effort while Chief of the Great General Staff, from late 1914 until he was sacked in the aftermath of the failure of his deliberately provoked battle of attrition over Verdun. Marshalling some compelling evidence, the author demonstrates that despite Verdun, Falkenhayn in fact was chiefly responsible for most of Germany’s victories during his tenure in command, despite the frequent necessity of beating off efforts to replace him from enthusiasts for Hindenburg and Ludendorff; the Gorlice-Tarnow offensive, the Warsaw operation, the destruction of Serbia, and a series of successful defensive operations in the west, and then the series of complex misjudgments and mistakes – not all by Falkenhayn – that led to Verdun. An interesting book, that offers some useful insights into the inner workings of the German high command.

*Blood in the Argonne: The “Lost Battalion” of World War I*, by Alan D. Gaff. Normal, Ok.: University of Oklahoma Press, 2005. Pp. xvi, 368. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$32.95. ISBN: 0-8061-3696-0.

A very readable account of the U.S. Army in World War I, focused on the famous incident in October of 1918 which saw a battalion of the 308<sup>th</sup> Infantry of the 77<sup>th</sup> Division offer desperate resistance against heavy

enemy attack while isolated for five days behind German lines. Relying on a combination of personal accounts and official documents, the book takes the troops of the regiment, and the division, from civilian life, through basic training, then overseas, through advanced training, such as it was, and into combat. Along the way the author provides a very good account of the creation and experience of the entire army during the war, warts and all. An excellent addition to the literature of the AEF.

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Membership News

Some “Way to Go!” news: in mid-December, NYMAS Boardmember *Jonathan Epstein* defended his dissertation, “Between France and Germany: The Formation of Belgian Defense Policy, 1932-1940,” before a committee chaired by his advisor, Prof. David Gordon, that included Kathy Williams (who said “He did an excellent job and it was a pleasure to work with him.”), Dennis Showalter, Robert Seltzer, and Richard Powers, names not unknown to NYMAS members. Jonathan will be awarded a doctorate by the City University of New York in May of 2006. A book is already under discussion.

In November the History of Science Society awarded Executive Director Emerita *Kathleen Broome Williams* the Margaret Rossiter History of Women in Science prize for her book *Improbable Warriors: Women Scientists and the US Navy in World War II* (NIP 2001), the second award for the book, which won the 2001 NASOH prize for best book in US Naval History. Prof. Williams was a guest at the annual Navy Memorial Foundation dinner in Washington, where host Ernest Borgnine presided over the granting of a “Lone Sailor Award” to the late Grace Hopper, during which of a short film was shown based on Kathy’s biography of the admiral.

Board Member *Theodore F. Cook* will be off to Australia this coming spring to begin a Fulbright Research Fellowship at the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, ACT. At the invitation of the School of History, University College University of New South Wales in Canberra, and Australian Defence Force Academy, Ted will be working on “The Japanese War with Asia and the West: Australian Resources for Understanding the History and Memory of Japan’s Second World War” for six months, delving into the wealth of research materials—documentary, physical, and human—available only in Australia to enrich his research on the Second World War and allow him to complete a study of that conflict that focuses on the inter-relationships between the belligerents. The opportunity afforded by the Fulbright Research program in Australia will be used to develop close ties of exchange and mutual understanding with Australian experts on the war and he hopes to learn from Australian veterans and their memories many things

that have not become part of the “war story” in Japan or the US. Ted’s recent publications are an article, “Making ‘Soldiers’: The Imperial Army and the Japanese Man in Meiji Society and State,” in Barbara Maloney and Kathleen Uno, editors, *Gendering Modern Japanese History* (Cambridge, Mass/ London: Harvard University Asia Center, 2005), pp. 259-294, and a piece “Japanese Facing the End,” in *Everyman’s War*, No. 12 (Autumn/Winter 2005), pp. 35-41.

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**Early Modern**

*The First Way of War: American War Making on the Frontier*, by John Grenier. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005. Pp. xiv, 232. Illus., maps, notes, index. \$30.00. ISBN: 0-521-84566-1.

The origins of the “American way of war” in the Indian wars of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, characterized by extreme violence and unconventional warfare. While the author makes a interesting case, the book overlooks the unrestrained violence and frequent unconventional nature of European warfare at the time of the initial European settlements in America, culminating in the ferocity of the Thirty Years’ War which led to major changes in the conduct of war by the European states. Nor does the book say much about warfare among Native Americans.

*The Heirs of Archimedes: Science and the Art of War through the Age of Enlightenment*, edited by Brett D. Steele and Tamera Dorland. Cambridge, Ma.: MIT Press, 2005. Pp. vii, 397. Illus., tables, diag., notes, index. \$55.00. ISBN: 0-262-19516-X.

Despite its title, *The Heirs of Archimedes* focuses primarily on the introduction and effects of gunpowder on European and Islamic warfare from c. 1350 through c. 1750, with a very strong technological bias. There is a great deal about the development of mass production of gunpowder and about how it affected the design of ships and fortifications, with an excursion into the influence of gunpowder on mathematics. There is, how-ever, very little on how these developments affected the conduct of war, save in the broadest sense. A good book for the specialist.

*Never Come Peace Again: Pontiac’s Uprising and the Fate of the British Empire in North America*, by David Dixon. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 2005. Pp. xvii, 353. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$34.95. ISBN: 0-8061-3656-1.

An account of “The Conspiracy of Pontiac,” the grand coalition of Ohio Country tribes in the aftermath of the French & Indian War that almost halted the tide of Western Expansion. The author goes beyond a discussion of the military aspects of the war to examine how it helped fuel in the increasing tension between Britain and its American colonies. A wealth of material on the conduct of diplomacy and war in the mid-eighteenth century North American wilderness.

## Spring 2006 Lecture Schedule

Mar 10 “Washington's Secret War: The Hidden History of Valley Forge,” Thomas Fleming, Author

### Spring Conference: Mar 17-18

#### *The American Way of War in the 21st Century*

For up-to-date details see the NYMAS website: [nymas.org](http://nymas.org)

**Friday, March 17, 2006, 7 to 9 PM**

—*The Torture Issue*, Jim Ross, senior legal advisor, Human Rights Watch

—*U.S. Central Command in the Global War on Terrorism*, Col. Mike Davino, Chief, Manpower and Augmentation Division, U.S. Central Command

—*The Trial of Saddam Hussein*, Nehal Bhuta, Arthur Helton Fellow, International Justice Program, Human Rights Watch

**Saturday morning, March 18, 2006, 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM**

—*Toward an American Way of War*, Antulio J. Echevarria, U.S. Army War College/Strategic Studies Institute

—*Congress' Way: War Is Not Hell, It Is an Opportunity*, Winslow Wheeler, Director, Straus Military Reform Project: & Center for Defense Information

—*The Global War on Terror and the History of Small Wars*, Max Boot, Senior Fellow, National Security Studies, The Council on Foreign Relations

—*Is the U.S. on a Collision Course With Iran?* Ervand Abrahamian, History Dept., CUNY Graduate Center

LUNCH: 12:30-2:00PM

**DATE: Saturday afternoon, March 18, 2006, 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM**

—*Who Will Fight for Us?*, Bing West, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, author, *No True Glory: A Frontline Account of the Battle for Fallujah*

—*The American Way of War in the 21st Century*, John Prados, National Security Archive

—*A Historian Looks into the Future*, Brigadier General Robert Doughty, USA (ret.), Former Chair of the History Dept., USMA at West Point, Author, *Seeds of Disaster: The Development of French Army Doctrine, 1919-1939, Breaking Point: Sedan and the Fall of France, 1940*, and his latest work, *Pyrrhic Victory: French Strategy And Operations In The Great War*

Mar 24 “MacArthur's Eyes: Reassessing Military Intelligence in 'The Forgotten War',” Maj. Pete Knight, USMA

Mar 31 “Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief,” Jim Dingeman, NYMAS/INN

Apr 7 “The Latvian Army in World War II: A Small State at War,” Prof. Val Lumans, University of South Carolina, Aiken

Apr 14 *Easter/Passover – no meeting*

Apr 21 “Germany and the Axis Powers: From Coalition to Collapse,” Richard DiNardo, USMC Command & Staff College

Apr 28 “The War of the Apostasy, Arabia, AD 633-634,” Neil Graham, NYMAS

May 5 “Alexis DeTocqueville: The Algerian Conflict in the 1840s,” Sheryl Gordon, CUNY Graduate School

May 12 “Current Ideas, Concepts, & Controversies in Military Affairs,” Lt. Col. Roger Morin & Richard DiNardo, USMC Command & Staff College

May 13 – *Saturday* – “Hamburger Hill: Operation Apache Snow,” Allen Walberg, NYMAS, & Jim Dingeman, NYMAS/INN – *all day event*

May 19 “Victory in Tripoli: How America's War with the Barbary Pirates Established the U.S. Navy & Shaped a Nation,” Joshua London, Author

May 26 “Amphibious Marine & Colonial Soldier: Maj. Gen A. R. Chater, Royal Marines, 1913-1948,” Don Bittner, USMC Command & Staff College

Jun 2 “Corporal Punishment in the Greek Phalanx and Roman Legion: Modern Myths and Ancient Realities,” Prof Jennie Kiesling, USMA

Jun 9 “Conspiracy or Coincidence? The Civil War Draft Riots and the Gettysburg Campaign,” Barnet Schecter, Author

Jun 16 “War in the Alps: Austria vs. Italy, 1915-1918,” Dan David, NYMAS

Jun 23 “Napoleon's 1812 Campaign Analyzed through Contemporary Artwork,” Frank Radford, NYMAS

NYMAS talks are free and open to the public. They are normally held on Friday evenings at the City University of New York Graduate Center, at 365 Fifth Avenue between 34th and 35th Streets from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday lectures are usually held on the 6th floor in Room 6-495, but confirmation of the room number should be obtained from the guard at the street-level entrance.

These talks are sponsored by the New York Military Affairs Symposium in conjunction with CUNY's Conference on History and Politics, Dr. George D. Schwab, Director. NYMAS is associated with the Society for Military History, Region 2.

Speakers and subjects may be subject to change without notice. A current schedule is available at the NYMAS website at [nymas.org](http://nymas.org).

### The New York Military Affairs Symposium

CUNY Graduate Center  
c/o History Dept., Rm. 5114  
365 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y., 10016

NYMAS is a tax exempt, not-for-profit membership corporation chartered under the laws of the State of New York. Donations are deductible from both Federal and New York State taxes. Membership dues are \$35.00 a year, payable in September. Checks should be made out to “NYMAS” and mailed to the CUNY address. Items for The Review should be sent to Albert A. Nofi, Editor, NYMAS Review, 4921 Seminary Rd. (#1605), Alexandria, Va., 22311 or via email to [anofi@nymas.org](mailto:anofi@nymas.org)