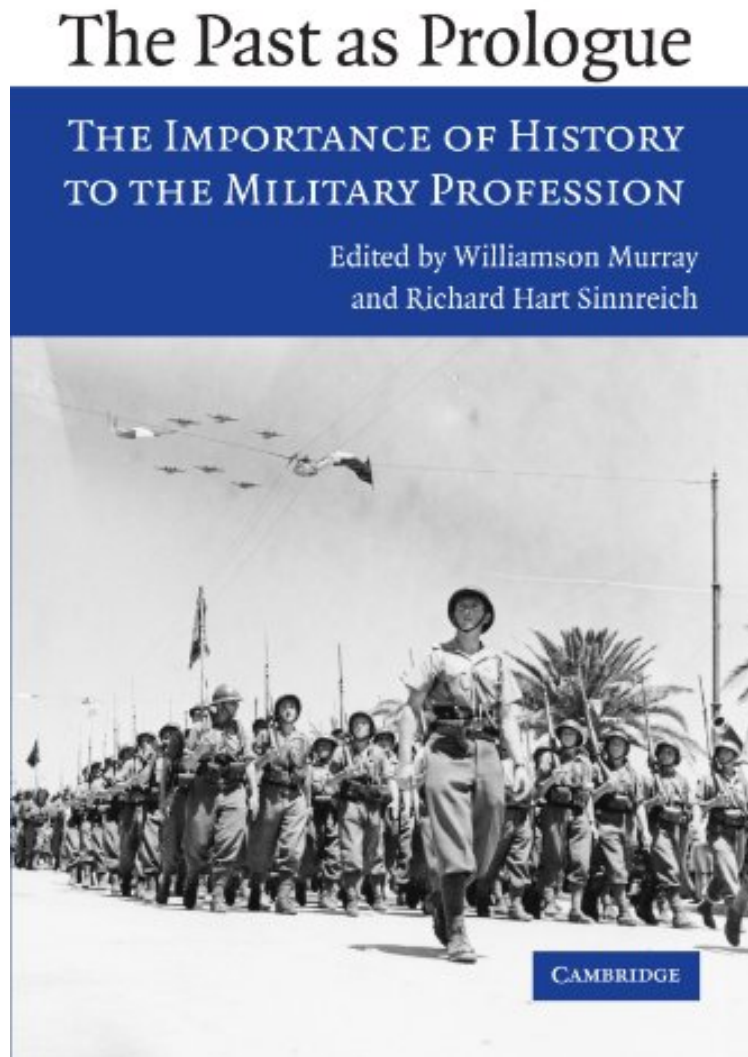


(Online library) The Past as Prologue: The Importance of History to the Military Profession

The Past as Prologue: The Importance of History to the Military Profession

From Brand: Cambridge University Press
*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



 Download

 Read Online

#1095925 in Books Cambridge University Press 2006-05-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.98 x .75 x 5.98l, .91 #File Name: 0521619637298 pages | File size: 26.Mb

From Brand: Cambridge University Press : The Past as Prologue: The Importance of History to the Military Profession before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Past as Prologue: The Importance of History to the Military Profession:

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Good food for thoughtBy R. W. LevesqueThe editors of this book have put together an outstanding series of essays derived from a conference at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst,

and later presented at the Marine Corps University, Quantico. The book's theme is stated in the subtitle; "The Importance of History to the Military Profession;" its view point is that the study of military history is critical for the military. There are two introductory chapters. The first, by Editor Williamson Murray, argues that only by studying military history can a soldier begin to understand war. Not that there aren't pitfalls and, "for history to be of any use, its very complexities demand skeptical inquiry rather than reliance on a smattering of inevitably oversimplified historical anecdotes." The second chapter, by eminent military historian Sir Michael Howard, argues that only military history can provide contextual understanding for many more conventional historians in explaining many issues, such as the impact of World War's I and II on society. The rest of the book is divided into two sections; the first focuses on the relationship of military history to the military profession, and the second looks at historical cases that illustrate recurring military problems. The essays rely on academics and on military officers both of whom provide insight into history's role in understanding war. The authors include many familiar names such as LTG (R) Paul Van Riper, USMC, MG (R) Jonathan Bailey, British Army, John Gooch, Colin S. Gray, and the two editors themselves. If you believe military history allows a better understanding of war, or if you just enjoy military history, this book will give you insight into the positive aspects of the field and its pitfalls - and there are many. At the same time, if you tend to believe today's problems are unique, read the book so that you can find the true path. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By bierhausser excellent book. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Defense of The Value of Studying Military History For Military Professionals By Nathan Albright This book is an intriguing collection of essays from American and British civilian and military thinkers on the importance of history to the military profession. Included among this book's essays are thoughtful examinations of the relationship between military history and the history of war, British and American Marine views on the relevance of history to serving military professionals, the sometimes awkward relationship between history and the military education, the role of Thucydides as an educator, a subtle and excellent examination of Clausewitz's views on history and the future strategic world, as well as some intriguing case studies on the Victorian Royal Navy, the Russo-Japanese War, the British army's readiness between WWI and WWII, and terrorism. The closing essay of the book, a frightening examination of the gaps between history and the future of civil-military relations, gives plenty of food for thought in this well-thought out and relevant work.

Exploring the usefulness of the study of history for contemporary military strategists, this volume illustrates the great importance of military history while simultaneously revealing the challenges of applying the past to the present. Essays from authors of diverse backgrounds--British and American, Civilian and Military--present an overwhelming argument for the necessity of the study of the past by today's military leaders in spite of these challenges. Part I examines the relationship between history and the military profession. Part II explores specific historical cases that reveal the repetitiveness of certain military problems.

"Military historians and strategists will come away from this book with a stronger awareness of their responsibilities to assess continuities critically and to offer correctives to those who assert that technological innovation means the Western world has reached the end of traditional military history." -P. Whitney Lackenbauer, St. Jerome's University, Canadian Journal of History "The Past as Prologue...attempts to demonstrate the importance of understanding history. In fact it doesn't simply attempt, it succeeds...The Past as Prologue is a must-read by senior military and a should-read by senior policy makers." -Lt Claude Berube, U.S. Navy Reserve, Proceedings About the Author Williamson Murray is Professor Emeritus of European Military History at Ohio State University and a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Defense Analysis. He is the author of a number of books including *The Changes in the European Balance of Power, 1938-1939*, *The Path to Ruin; Luftwaffe; German Military Effectiveness*; *The Air War in the Persian Gulf*; *Air War, 1914-1945*; *The Iraq War: A Military History*, with Major General Robert Scales, Jr.; and *A War to Be Won: Fighting the Second World War*, with Allan R. Millet. He also co-edited numerous collections, including *Military Innovations in the Interwar Period* (1996) with Allan R. Millet and *The Dynamics of Military Revolution, 1300-2050* (2001), with MacGregor Knox. Richard Hart Sinnreich works as an independent consultant in areas ranging from Army wargaming to defense transformation. His recent writings include 'The Changing Face of Battlefield Reporting', ARMY, November, 1994; 'To Stand Fight', ARMY, July, 1997; 'In Search of Victory', ARMY, February 1999; 'Whither the Legions', Strategic, Summer, 1999; 'Conceptual Foundations of a Transformed US Army with Huba Wass de Czege', The Institute For Land Warfare, March 2002; 'Red Team Insights From Army Wargaming', DART, September 2002; 'Joint Warfighting in the 21st Century' (with Williamson Murray), IDA (2002); and *A Strategy By Accident: US Pacific Policy in the Cold War*. He writes a regular column for the Lawton Constitution and occasional columns for ARMY and The Washington Post.