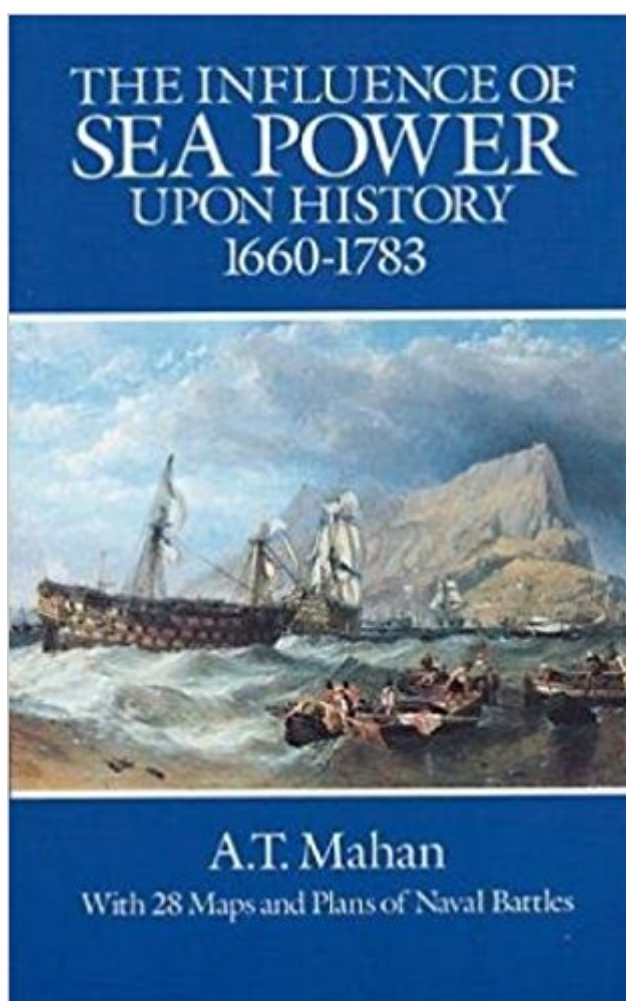


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The Influence Of Sea Power Upon History, 1660-1783 (Dover Military History, Weapons, Armor)



Synopsis

First published almost a century ago, this classic text on the history and tactics of naval warfare had a profound effect on the imperial policies of all the major powers. Kaiser Wilhelm is said to have "devoured" this book, and it was avidly read by presidents (including both Roosevelts), kings, prime ministers, admirals, and chancellors. This book was the work of noted U.S. naval officer and historian Alfred Mahan (1840–1914), who argued that despite great changes and scientific advances in naval weaponry, certain principles of naval strategy remain constant, and nations ignore them at their peril. Credited with stimulating the growth of modern navies in leading countries of the world, the text remains a basic authority on the strategy of naval warfare and is still used in the war colleges. Demonstrating through historical examples that the rise and fall of seapower (and of nations) has always been linked with commercial and military command of the seas, Mahan describes successful naval strategies employed in the past—from Greek and Roman times through the Napoleonic wars. Focusing primarily on England's rise as a sea power in the 18th century, the book provides not only an overview of naval tactics, but a lucid exposition of geographical, economic, and social factors governing the maintenance of sea power. The work is carefully written and exceptionally well-documented; moreover, the author's clear, well-thought-out text avoids technical language, making it accessible to a nonprofessional audience. In addition, four maps and a profusion of plans of naval battles help the reader grasp the strategy and tactics involved in some of the history's greatest maritime conflicts. In this inexpensive edition, the book represents an indispensable sourcebook for statesmen, diplomats, strategists, and naval commanders as well as students of history and international affairs. Although ships, weapons, and the global balance of power have altered greatly since 1890, the lessons taught here so vividly and compellingly are still applicable today. Includes 4 maps, 24 battle plans.

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Customer Reviews

Alfred Thayer Mahan (1840-1914) was an American naval officer and lecturer. This highly influential volume, first published in 1890, contains Mahan's analysis and discussions of the factors leading to Britain's naval domination in the eighteenth century, with strategic and tactical recommendations based on these factors. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

"Captain Mahan has written distinctively the best and most important, and also by far the most interesting, book on naval history which has been produced on either side of the water for many a long year." --Atlantic Monthly October 1890

First published over a century ago, this classic text on the history and tactics of naval warfare had a profound effect on the training of officers and the deployment of naval resources around the globe. Many of the world's great military strategists since 1890 have avidly read this book, including both Franklin Delano and Theodore Roosevelt, Kaiser Wilhelm II, and a host of admirals, chancellors, prime ministers, kings, and other presidents. It continues to be a primary reference for naval students and historians.

The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1660-1783 presents the argument that, despite great changes and scientific advances in naval weaponry, certain principles of naval strategy remain constant. Beginning in the time of Alexander the Great, those nations with strong commercial and military command of the seas were the nations of greatest strength, wealth, and power. Though the determinants of military supremacy and the global balance of power have changed due to tremendous advances in technology, the principles and strategies discussed in the book remain creditable. The extensive presentation of the history of high-seas navigation alone makes this book an invaluable resource, as it has been credited with stimulating the growth of modern navies in leading countries of the world.

Alfred Thayer Mahan (1840-1914) served in the Civil War and twice served as the president of the United States Naval War College, beginning shortly after the college was founded. Mahan became known as one of the leading spokesmen for the age of American imperialism. In addition to his books on the history of naval warfare, he wrote biographies of David Farragut and Horatio Nelson. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

I studied Captain Mahan's Classic review of naval strategies as an NROTC student, reluctantly. Re reading 50 years later, the history is even more exciting. Every Career Naval Person, commissioned or enlisted would enjoy this book, in fact should read to expand their knowledge of past naval and military strategies

Incredible book that should be read by all military historians to understand the time and the process of evaluating new technology using old yet proven paradigms. There is a reason he was read across the world in his time and like a host of other Military History mainstays, this one is timeless.

This is the historic and seminal perspective on sea power that is a must read for all military, naval, and merchant marine interests. Easier reading than I anticipated, this book proffers important philosophical perspectives on economics, history, and the importance of open sea lanes. While it is clearly outdated vis a vis technology, Mahan's concepts still bear an important view for sea going nations such as the United States. Really, this is a heck of a book that I should have read in depth many, many years ago.

Every modern navy owes Mahan for this one.

Fascinating book. Difficult to keep up with sailing jargon, but the physics are easy to understand from a tactical point of view. It all crosses over to contemporary times. Tactics and the individual. Confidence or no. Enjoyed the reading.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this classic that set the stage for Naval Strategy up to and including World War II. I learned a great deal about the evolution of naval warfare over a 2000 year period. The coverage of naval combat in the day of sail was very interesting. Also of interest was Capt Mahan's view of England's mistake in not peacefully recognizing American independence, thus creating an enemy and denying itself access to friendly Naval facilities in its ongoing struggles with France. Much of the book was dedicated to the praise of the Royal Navy, its strategy, tactics, and professionalism; especially when compared to the French and Spanish Naval tactics. This book set the stage for the modern US Navy.

This book is still one of the only primarily naval books on history and is fun to read for the perspective of the time and has lots of great history, living up to the book's initial purpose and goals.

A classic of naval history which greatly influenced early 20th century naval development. It is said to have influenced President Teddy Roosevelt and led, in part, to the sending of the Great White Fleet around the world. It's emphasis on a single decisive naval battle was one factor that later led to the decisive Battle of Midway in the Second World War.

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