#### STRATEGY IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

A Working Bibliography in MHI Sources

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# **EDUCATING AMERICAN STRATEGISTS**

Formal education in strategy would not have reached beyond West Point until the establishment of the Infantry and Cavalry School, Ft Leavenworth, 1880. In fact, the only formal instruction in strategy available in the US military establishment in mid-19th century was Dennis Hart Mahan's <u>Elementary Treatise on Advanced-Guard, Out- Post...</u>, according to Ambrose (cited below, pp. 100-101), Mahan's disciples were Halleck & McClellan, according to Weigley (<u>Towards an American Army</u>, Chap V). In Weigley one can also trace the origin and influence of the writing of Upton's disciples, officers such as Arthur Wagner and William H. Carter.

The influential US tacticians/strategists were military intellectuals who, as young officers, attached themselves to prominent commanders and won access to military journals such as the <u>Army & Navy Chronicle</u>, <u>Army & Navy Journal</u>, <u>Journal of the Military Service Institution</u>, and <u>U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings</u>.

Since strategy easily slips into the province of politics and because of the strong American tradition of civilian control of the military, the military's early interest in grand strategy was possibly expressed under the guise of tactics, as, for example, at Ft Leavenworth School and in the Early Army War College.

The relationship of the AWC and the early General Staff was intimate, especially in regard to war planning, notably in revising the color war plans. Therefore, after 1903 one may look to AWC as the training ground for <u>strategists</u>, although the pre-WWI AWC curriculum placed great emphasis on <u>tactical</u> rides.

In the first decade after WWII, the global, inter-service view of strategy probably belonged in the National War College, but the Army, Air, and Naval War Colleges soon caught on to the military's new quasi-political responsibilities. Note, for example, the National Strategy Seminar established at the AWC in the mid-1950s.

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## See also:

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