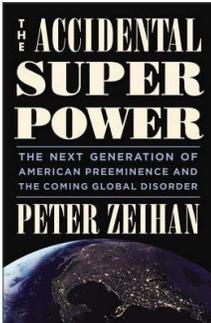




# COMMANDANT'S PROFESSIONAL READING LIST

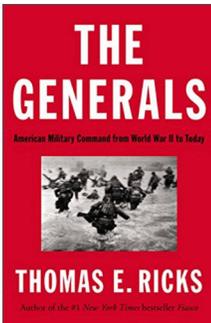


## **The Accidental Superpower: The Next Generation of American Preeminence and the Coming Global Disorder**

By Peter Zeihan // New York: Twelve Publishing, 2014

Zeihan examines how the hard rules of geography are eroding the American commitment to free trade; how much of the planet is aging into a mass retirement that will enervate markets and capital supplies; and how, against all odds, it is the ever-ravenous American economy that—alone among the developed nations—is rapidly approaching energy independence. Combined, these factors are doing nothing less than overturning the global system and ushering in a new order. He concludes that geography will matter more than ever in a deglobalizing world and that America's geography is simply sublime.

*Category: Strategic Environment*

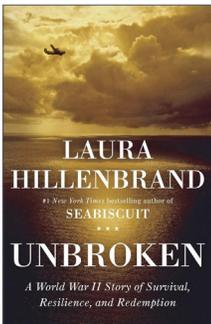


## **The Generals: American Military Command from World War II to Today**

By Thomas E. Ricks // New York: Penguin, 2013

Ricks traces how the promotion and relief of generals in the U.S. Army changed from the 1940s to the present day. During World War II, generals who failed to perform to the expected standard were relieved. After the war, the Army gradually abandoned this approach for one in which the relief of general officers became rare and almost never for battlefield performance. This change has played a crucial role in American wartime failures from 1950 to the present.

*Category: Leadership*

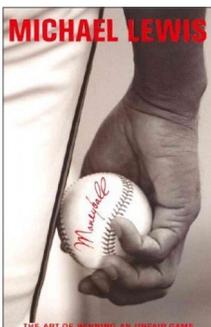


## **Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption**

By Laura Hillenbrand // New York: Turtleback Books, 2014

The inspiring true story of a man who lived through a series of catastrophes almost too incredible to be believed. In evocative, immediate descriptions, Hillenbrand unfurls the story of Louie Zamperini—a juvenile delinquent-turned-Olympic runner-turned-Army hero. During a routine search mission over the Pacific, Louie's plane crashed into the ocean, and what happened to him over the next three years of his life is a story that will keep you glued to the pages, eagerly awaiting the next turn in the story and fearing it at the same time.

*Category: Leadership*



## **Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game**

By Michael Lewis // Philadelphia: W.W. Norton & Company, 2004

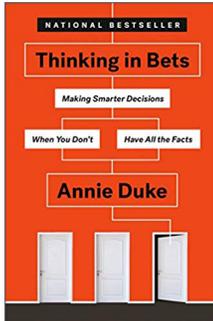
This book is an amazing eye-opener about a then radical new way of managing a pro baseball team that allowed the dirt-poor Oakland A's to win as many games as the fat-cat NY Yankees. Using detailed statistical analysis created by baseball fans like Bill James who wanted to know how to make better teams in their fantasy baseball leagues, Oakland GM Billy Beane drafted or traded for players other teams considered sub-standard or worn-out and Oakland became a post-season threat despite having the second lowest payroll in the major leagues.

*Category: Leadership*

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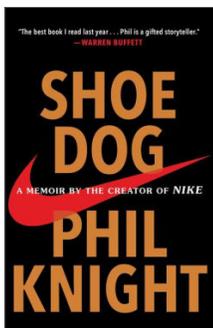


## Thinking in Bets: Making Smarter Decisions When You Don't Have All the Facts

By Annie Duke // New York: Penguin, 2018

Annie Duke, a former World Series of Poker champion turned business consultant, draws on examples from business, sports, politics, and poker to share tools anyone can use to embrace uncertainty and make better decisions. For most people, it's difficult to say "I'm not sure" in a world that values, and even rewards, the appearance of certainty. But professional poker players are comfortable with the fact that great decisions don't always lead to great outcomes and bad decisions don't always lead to bad outcomes.

Category: Systems Thinking

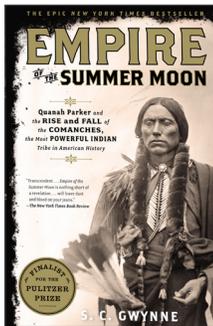


## Shoe Dog: A Memoir by the Creator of Nike

By Phil Knight // New York: Simon & Schuster, 2016

Ricks traces how the promotion and relief of generals in the U.S. Army changed from the 1940s to the present day. During World War II, generals who failed to perform to the expected standard were relieved. After the war, the Army gradually abandoned this approach for one in which the relief of general officers became rare and almost never for battlefield performance. This change has played a crucial role in American wartime failures from 1950 to the present.

Category: Systems Thinking

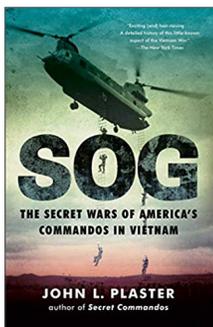


## Empire of the Summer Moon: Quannah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History

By S.C. Gwynne // New York: Simon & Schuster, 2016

*Empire of the Summer Moon* spans two astonishing stories. The first traces the rise and fall of the Comanches, the most powerful Indian tribe in American history. The second entails one of the most remarkable narratives ever to come out of the Old West: the epic saga of the pioneer woman Cynthia Ann Parker and her mixed-blood son, Quannah, who became the last and greatest chief of the Comanches. The war with the Comanches lasted four decades, in effect holding up the development of the new American nation.

Category: History



## SOG: The Secret Wars of America's Commandos in Vietnam

By John L. Plaster // New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997

Code-named the Studies and Observations Group, SOG was the most secret elite US military unit to serve in the Vietnam War - so secret that its very existence was denied by the government. Composed entirely of volunteers from such ace fighting units as the Army Green Berets, Air Force Air Commandos, and Navy SEALs, SOG took on the most dangerous covert assignments in the deadliest and most forbidding theaters of operation.

Category: History

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