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A. T Mahan

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A. T Mahan : The influence of sea power upon history, 1660-1805 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The influence of sea power upon history, 1660-1805:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Kind of fun to follow the logic of setting up a fleet ...By NewlpstI knew the contents of this book from so many (navy) teachings. I thought. But, read the actual text and it is so much more organic rather than mere rules to follow or avoid from an expert. Kind of fun to follow the logic of setting up a fleet of ships under wind (sail) for attack vs defense. Is there defense? Ever? What is a safe fortress at sea? Great strategically. What if the wind goes dead? Fast vs powerful? But great pictures on every page.Think you are smart? Test how smart you are when the results rely on the cooperation of weather. No wonder history is so screwed up.21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Influence of Sea Power upon History 1660-1805 (Prentice-Hall edition, 1980)By Able FoxtrotThis edition includes major parts of two books by renowned naval historian Alfred Thayer Mahan, along with an introduction by Antony Preston. The two sources are:"Influence of Sea Power upon History 1660-1783" (abridged) and"Influence of Sea Power upon the French Revolution 1793-1812" (excerpts)Capt. A.T. Mahan's first book, published in 1890, was about 600 pages and included 30 illustrations (maps and plans, or track-charts, of sea battles), and can be downloaded from Project Gutenberg, file "13529-h.htm". It is also available in an unabridged trade paperback reprint from Dover Publications. His sequel on the British Navy during the years of the French Revolution was published in 1892 and is not available at Gutenberg (although several other Mahan books are, including the two volume "Life of Nelson." [...])The atlas-sized (9.5 x 12 in., 256 pages) hardcover edition reviewed

here was published by Prentice-Hall in 1980 (ISBN: 0134645375) and has several advantages, the foremost being that it includes naval history and commentary covering the pinnacle of sailing sea power for the British Navy, as indicated in its title, "Influence of Sea Power upon History 1660-1805," the last being the year of Nelson's glorious victory at Trafalgar. As a faithful introduction to Mahan's ideas and contributions to naval history for a strategic purpose it does a very good job, including ALL of his seminal chapter on the elements of sea power. The historical narrative which Mahan provided as exposition has only been slightly reduced by the editor, and in most cases flows intelligibly. After the first five chapters of "Mahan's Influence...1660-1783," the abridgement in the 1980 Prentice-Hall edition is more severe, with the 6th chapter reduced to one sentence. Most of what is missing is political or land-based military background, and the editors have included all significant naval battles. Mahan's book had 14 chapters, and the last one corresponds to the tenth chapter of the 1980 edition; chapters 11 through 14 of the Prentice-Hall edition are taken from the sequel, "Influence of Sea Power upon the French Revolution 1793-1812." One improvement is the updated sea battle plans or track-charts which have replaced Mahan's original illustrations and provide greater clarity of the actions. However, there are not as many of them and completely missing are the maps of the Mediterranean and other naval theaters. While the best part of Mahan's text has been included, over half the surface of the 256 pages has been devoted to non-Mahan illustrations, mostly taken from period paintings, engravings and models of sailing ships in port and in battle, and portraits of political and military figures. It is the American Heritage treatment, and I find it to be distracting, particularly the captions which often seem intent on making points not related to Mahan's narrative or principles. The lack of large scale strategic maps and the plethora of images of antique, albeit marvelous, sailing ships ultimately prove to be at odds with Mahan's primary lesson, that a national strategy of sea power depends on geography, a strong trade-based economy and national character, and not on any particular technology (sail) or tactics thereof. Bottom line: get this book for the pictures, and the Dover edition (ISBN: 0486255093) for Mahan's unabridged text which is still relevant today. Note that he saw the necessity of the U.S. providing a sphere of naval power in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific prior to the construction of the Panama Canal. His conception of sea power was based on the model of the growth of the British Empire, which he thought America might aspire to as it developed into a manufacturing and trading powerhouse. And he warned that countries (Spain and Portugal in the time of his history) which held the production of real goods in contempt would lose power and ultimately decline. As for the projection of military power into the Middle East without any economic gain, and even going into deeper debt to do so, it is fair to say Mahan would consider it the height of folly. But you can read his book yourself and draw your own conclusions. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Naval Military Strategies, Review By Bert 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

The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660-1805 256 pp. Numerous color and black white reproductions of historical naval illustrations throughout. An analysis of naval military strength as it has affected history over the course of nearly 150 years. An expanded edition of the work originally released in the 19th century, covering 22 additional years, with a new introduction by Antony Preston. Keywords: MILITARY HISTORY NAVY NAVAL WARFARE SEA POWER OCEAN MARINE MARITIME