

The Future of the Australian-U.S. Security Relationship by Rod Lyon and William T. Tow. Strategic Studies Institute (<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ssi/index.cfm>), US Army War College, 122 Forbes Avenue, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013-5244, 2003, 50 pages. <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ssi/pdffiles/PUB50.pdf>.

As Australia changes its status from a regional ally to one of America's few global allies, relationships and defense arrangements must change and adapt. Whereas New Zealand never recovered from its antinuclear stance that distanced it from the United States, Australia has continued its 50-year relationship with us. Having contributed forces to the fighting in both Afghanistan and Iraq, Australia now understands the hostile nature of Asian affairs—especially after the Bali attacks in 2002—and realizes it needs American support to contain the arc of instability that has invaded the South Pacific islands. The authors point out that the change for Australia began when it shouldered the largest share of the burden in stabilizing East Timor in the 1990s. Although it backed up Australia, the United States declared that that country had to police its own backyard. Australian forces remain in New Guinea and Guadalcanal attempting to engage in nation building as the societies there cope with failed states and policies. Australian politicians, at least those currently in power, believe that the Asian and global environments have so shifted at the start of the twenty-first century that Australia must also shift; the major constraint, as in other countries, is funds for military expenditures.

Because of the maritime approaches to the Australian continent and the focus of the US Army on Korea, Australia seeks interoperability with the US Marine Corps. The authors also concentrate on various weapons systems on the books in Australia and their fit into the new global strategy of the Australian Defense Forces. The F-111 fleet may retire early to free up funding for the Joint Strike Fighter, and the Australian army requires a new battle tank. Australia's ability to become a meaningful contributor to American-led global operations will depend upon its willingness to create and maintain a wide array of high-technology forces. Not only must it have airlift to give its forces global reach, but also it must shed its commonwealth thinking about fighting no further than Singapore.

Speculation concerning basing and movement in the vast Asian region also enters into the debate about what role Australia could and should play. US policy itself has not matured to a point where America has formally asked Australia to provide

basing for either forces or equipment. Furthermore, as the United States finds itself confronted by a larger global war on terrorism, Japan may enter into more than talks with Australia and America. Worried about instability and threats emanating from China, Japan desires Australian and American cooperation to assist it with policies and an Asian defense framework. The doctrine of interdependence with the United States will continue to be the dominant defense policy for Australia.

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In Command of History: Churchill Fighting and Writing the Second World War by David Reynolds. Penguin: Allen Lane (<http://www.penguin.co.uk>), 80 Strand, London, WC2R 0RL, 2004, 672 pages, £30.00 (hardcover).

David Reynolds has done it again. *In Command of History* is a book about the writing of six books—Winston Churchill's multivolume memoirs about his experiences in World War II, to be exact. In this carefully researched and nuanced study, Reynolds shows that this once and future prime minister wrote his account with three different considerations in mind. First, like any author, he wanted to make money. Churchill was fully aware that fame is a fickle thing and that he needed to strike quickly if he wanted to maximize his profits. Second, like any major political figure, he wanted to defend decisions he had made. Finally, and unlike most political memoirists, he wrote with an eye to his political future. He was still an active member of the House of Commons and often molded his writings to service his political interests as he saw them in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

The author's detailed account shows that Churchill made a small fortune from these memoirs that ranged—depending on inflation and currency exchange rates—between 18 and 50 million dollars. Although this account is highly informative, the book is more impressive in its breadth than in its depth. His central argument that the writings of Churchill the historian shape our understanding of Churchill the politician seems rather obvious. Reynolds offers a number of careful discussions of the controversies that involved Churchill during his time at 10 Downing Street and the way that these volumes influence public understanding of those incidents. As summaries of current knowl-

edge, the passages are quite good, but little in them will strike specialists as particularly new.

Still, *In Command of History* is an entertaining read that military professionals can profitably consult. It shows how history is “made” and influenced. Few readers of this journal will ever have the influence of Churchill, but some might have some interesting stories to tell. This book would serve as a good training manual for people considering a writing project after they leave active duty.

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A Question of Loyalty: Gen. Billy Mitchell and the Court-Martial That Gripped the Nation by Douglas C. Waller. HarperCollins Publishers (<http://www.harpercollins.com>), 10 East 53d Street, New York, New York 10022-5299, 2004, 448 pages, \$26.95 (hardcover).

The trials of O. J. Simpson, Kobe Bryant, and Scott Peterson held the attention of the entire country, but they are hardly a new phenomenon. Long before the development of *Court TV* and the 24-hour news networks, Americans were interested in the legal troubles of the famous and infamous. For reasons that defy explanation, we are inveterate observers of others' misfortunes, whether deserved or not. Trials are the legal versions of car wrecks or fires. We are drawn to them like moths to a flame. *A Question of Loyalty* tells the story of a trial that held the nation spellbound in the fall of 1925. Not merely a trial, it was a court-martial, which combines the elements of criminal law with military discipline.

Billy Mitchell had acquired national and international fame when the Army brought him up on charges. This war hero and aviation pioneer forged his career by aggressively pursuing his own agenda to advance military aviation as he divined it. After over 25 years in the service, Mitchell had risen to the temporary rank of brigadier general as the Army's assistant director of the Air Service—a position attained by being his own man, according to some sources. Others would describe this trait in terms of his refusal to be a team player.

Born and raised in privilege, Mitchell was a childhood playmate of Douglas MacArthur. With the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, he enlisted in the same militia regiment that his father served in during the Civil War. Through his father's political connections, Mitchell soon received his

commission as a signal officer. His stellar performance in a series of assignments, including the Philippines, marked him as a man with a bright future in the Army. Before World War I, he learned to fly and became an aviator—a normal course of events since military aviation was an arm of the Signal Corps at the time.

When the United States entered the war, Mitchell shipped out to Europe, virtually took command of the fledgling American Air Service, and developed his ideas about the primacy of military aviation. When the war ended, his head was full of ideas about how to advance and gain the independence of the aviation arm. Mitchell would let nobody stand in his way, and he didn't care whose toes got smashed in the process.

Author Douglas Waller effectively explains how Mitchell's dedication to this cause brought him fame in military and civilian circles but alienated a large contingent of soldiers, sailors, and politicians. His hard-line quest for the expansion of military aviation encroached on many others' turf. Mitchell's inability to work within the construct of Army bureaucracy finally resulted in removal from his War Department position and exile to Fort Sam Houston, Texas—considered a backwater post. Along with his reassignment came a reduction to his permanent rank of colonel. His removal and demotion left him truly rankled.

Mitchell did not suffer embarrassment well, and his reassignment did not shut him up. In Texas he continued to needle the system by writing articles, books, and speeches critical of anyone or anything that opposed him. Although this commentary was well received by the public, the Army bided its time, waiting for him to stumble. Stumble he did after the tragic crash of the Navy's airship *Shenandoah*. Just days after the accident, Mitchell issued a public broadside in which he indicted the Army's and Navy's management of military aviation as “criminally negligent” and “almost treasonable.” This statement caused a firestorm in the press that Mitchell expected would result in his recall to Washington so that he could clean up the mess he blamed on others. He was in fact summoned to Washington—to face a court-martial.

Bringing this human drama to life, Waller tells a spellbinding story equal to the best courtroom fiction. He expertly interweaves the details of Mitchell's personal life and military career with the suspenseful events of the seven-week trial. Even military readers familiar with the story will find themselves entertained and educated by this account.