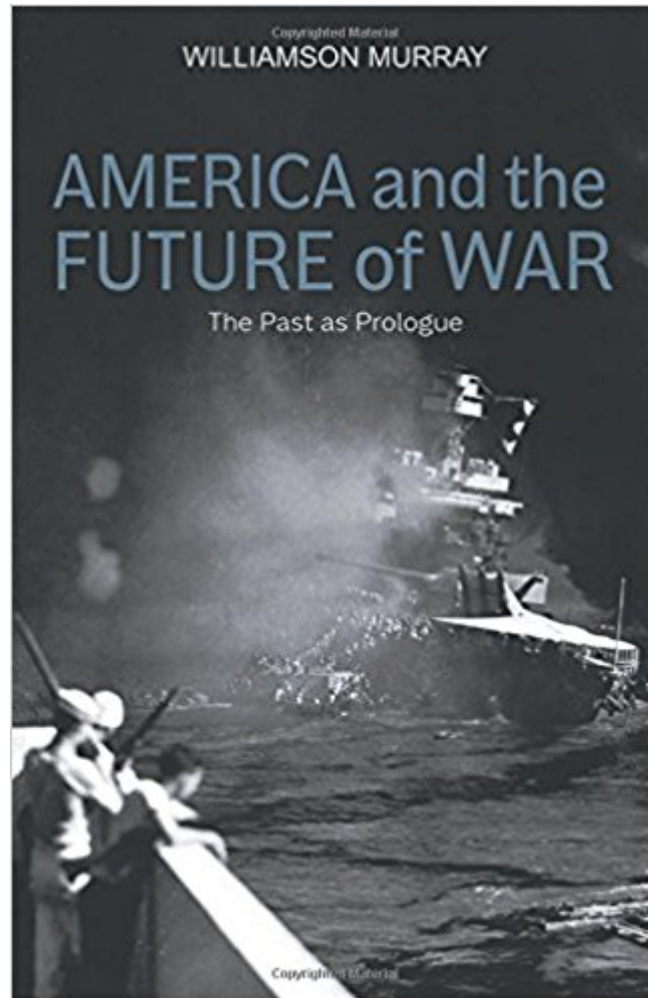




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America And The Future Of War: The Past As Prologue



Synopsis

Throughout the world today there are obvious trouble spots that have the potential to explode into serious conflicts at any time in the immediate or distant future. This study examines what history suggests about the future possibilities and characteristics of war and the place that thinking about conflict deserves in the formation of American strategy in coming decades. The author offers a historical perspective to show that armed conflict between organized political groups has been mankind's constant companion and that America must remain prepared to use its military power to deal with an unstable, uncertain, and fractious world. Williamson Murray shows that while there are aspects of human conflict that will not change no matter what advances in technology or computing power may occur, the character of war appears to be changing at an increasingly rapid pace with scientific advances providing new and more complex weapons, means of production, communications, and sensors, and myriad other inventions, all capable of altering the character of the battle space in unexpected fashions. He explains why the past is crucial to understanding many of the possibilities that lie in wait, as well as for any examination of the course of American strategy and military performance in the future; and warns that the moral and human results of the failure of American politicians and military leaders to recognize the implications of the past are already apparent.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Williamson Murray is an American historian and author. He served in the United States Air Force, taught at a variety of universities, worked as a consultant, and has authored numerous works on history and strategic studies, the most recent being the highly acclaimed: *A Savage War: A Military History of the Civil War* (Princeton University Press).

Historically oriented, reminds me of Churchill's quip that one can only think about the future by knowing the past, and that the further one wants to look deep into the coming decades, the further one should explore history. Highly commended.

A dose of realism, rooted in deep learning about the history of war and statecraft, by one of the leading military historians in the English-speaking world. Not to be missed by anyone in or out of government/the armed forces.

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