



Required reading

- *Ghost Fleet: A Novel of the Next War* by P.W. Singer and August Cole. MCWAR will use *Ghost Fleet* as the basis for a writing diagnostic that students will take shortly after arriving at Quantico. While reading the book, students should bear in mind strategic questions raised including, but not limited to: What domestic/international opportunities/constraints exist for the United States and China? What U.S. government gaps and seams might an aggressive external actor exploit? How might the geopolitical landscape look from China's point of view. The specific question for the exam will be provided at the start of the diagnostic. This overview is meant to provide perspective for the activity. This assessment will not be counted in academic grading but will be used to tailor support to individual writing abilities. US students will have one hour to write their response. International students will be given two hours to write their response.

Recommended reading (will help calibrate you to issues of discussion at the War College)

- *Fighting Talk: Forty Maxims on War, Peace, and Strategy* -- by Colin S. Gray
- *Thinking Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman

Supplementary Readings (as desired)

- *Thinking in Time: The Uses of History for Decision Makers* by Richard Neustadt and Ernest R. May
- *Why America Needs a New Way of War* Available at link: <https://www.cnas.org/publications/reports/anawow>
- *Averting Crisis* by Ashley Townshend and Brendan Thomas-Noone, with Matilda Steward Available at the link: <https://www.ussc.edu.au/analysis/averting-crisis-american-strategy-military-spending-and-collective-defence-in-the-indo-pacific>
- *National Defense Commission Study* <https://www.usip.org/publications/2018/11/providing-common-defense>
- *Winning a Future War – War Gaming and Victory in the Pacific* by Norman Friedman <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/publications/publications-by-subject/winning-a-future-war.html>
- *The Washington War* by Dr. Jim Lacey
- *The Back Channel: A Memoir of American Diplomacy and the Case for Its Renewal* by William J. Burns
- *Summits: Six Meetings That Shaped the Twentieth Century* by David Reynolds
- *The Ugly American* by Eugene Burdick