

United States Marine Corps Commandant's Professional Reading List Discussion Guide



This guide is intended to help Marines think about and discuss the books they read. All answers or responses should be embraced as *relevant*; there is no single right answer. Furthermore, when leaders provide unhelpful criticism of a Marine's idea, this may discourage him or her from reading other books, entertaining fresh ideas, or pushing themselves intellectually. Leaders should remain curious about what their Marines read, and avoid leading them to a particular interpretation. In doing so leaders may develop better insight to their Marines' thought processes, learn a new way of accomplishing a task, or discover a different strategy to consider. A good leader supports continuous conversation. This, in turn, leads to a better sense of history, identity, and purpose.

1. In as few words as possible, what is this book about?
2. What made you want to read it?
3. Did it live up to your expectations? Why? Why not?
4. Did you learn anything new? If so, what?
5. Which part of the book did you find most interesting?
6. Did this book inspire you to want to do more research on the subject? Why? Why not?
7. Would you recommend it to a friend or another Marine? Why? Why not?
8. Does the subject of this book affect your life? If so, how? If no, why not?
9. What evidence does the author use to support their ideas?
10. Are the issues raised in the book controversial? Why?
11. Does the author offer solutions to the problems raised in the book? How probable is their success? Can you think of additional solutions?
12. If you were to talk with the author, what would you ask him or her?
13. Have you read the author's other books? Can you discern a similarity (in theme, writing style, structure, etc.) between them, or are they completely different?
14. After reading this book, have your views on the subject changed? Why? Why not?
15. Why should Marines read this book?