American Naval History: A Very Short Introduction
Craig L. Symonds

American Naval History: A Very Short Introduction charts the history of the United States Navy from its birth during the American Revolution, through its emergence as a global power amid the world wars of the twentieth century, and to its current role as a superpower in the twenty-first century. It highlights iconic moments of great drama pivotal to the nation’s fortunes: John Paul Jones’ attacks on the British during the Revolution, the Barbary Wars, and the arduous conquest of Iwo Jima. It also illuminates the technological, institutional, and functional changes of the U.S. Navy and captures its evolving culture and the debates between policymakers about what role the institution should play in world affairs.

Ancient Warfare: A Very Short Introduction
Harry Sidebottom

Ancient Warfare: A Very Short Introduction examines all aspects of ancient warfare, from philosophy and strategy to the technical skills needed to fight. How did wars shape classical society? How was the individual’s identity constructed by war? Can a war be just? Why was siege warfare particularly bloody? What role did divine intervention play in the outcome of a battle? Greek and Roman warfare differed from other cultures and was unlike any other forms of warfare. The key difference is often held to be that the Greeks and Romans practised a ‘Western Way of War’, where the aim is an open, decisive battle, won by courage instilled in part by discipline. What is this ‘Western Way of War’?

Modern War: A Very Short Introduction
Richard English
Modern War: A Very Short Introduction draws on a variety of areas including history, political science, economics, theology, and psychology, explores the assumptions we make about modern warfare and considers them against the backdrop of their historical reality. Warfare is the most dangerous threat faced by modern humanity. It is also one of the key influences that has shaped the politics, economics, and society of the modern period. But what do we mean by modern war? What causes modern wars to begin? Why do people fight in them, why do they end, and what have they achieved?

The Treaty of Versailles: A Very Short Introduction
Michael S. Neiberg

Print Publication Year: 2019 Published Online: Mar 2019
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Item type: book

Signed on June 28, 1919, between Germany and the principal Allied powers, the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I. Problematic from the very beginning, the treaty was seen even by its contemporaries as a mediocre compromise, creating a precarious order in Europe and abroad and destined to fall short of ensuring lasting peace. The Treaty of Versailles: A Very Short Introduction explains the enormous challenges facing those who tried to put the world back together after the global destruction of World War I amid competing national interests. It analyzes the many subtle factors that influenced the treaty and shows how the treaty affected not only Europe, but also the rest of the world.

War and Technology: A Very Short Introduction
Alex Roland

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Warfare and its technologies predate human history. Their dynamic relationship drives the transformation of war and countless realms of technological innovation. Yet even now the newest, best, and highest technology cannot guarantee victory. Rather, technology and warfare remain in a timeless dialectic, driving change without ever stabilizing a military balance of power or capping a trajectory of technological creativity. New technologies continue to push warfare in unexpected directions, while warfare pulls technology into new realms and new possibilities. War and Technology: A Very Short Introduction explores this continually evolving story from the ancestors of Homo sapiens to the age of net-centric warfare and autonomous weapons.

World War II: A Very Short Introduction
Gerhard L. Weinberg

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World War II: A Very Short Introduction examines the origins, course, and impact of the Second World War on those who fought and the ordinary citizens who lived through it. Starting with the inter-war years and the German invasion of Poland in September 1939, it examines how the war progressed by examining a number of key events: the war in the West in 1940, Barbarossa, the German invasion of the Soviet Union, the expansion of Japan's war with China, developments on the home front, and the Allied victory from 1944–45. Exploring the costs and effects of the war, this VSI considers the long-lasting mark World War II has left on society today.