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052185377X - The Past as Prologue: The Importance of History to the Military Profession

Edited by Williamson Murray and Richard Hart Sinnreich

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## The past as prologue

In today's military of rapid technological and strategic change, obtaining a complete understanding of the present, let alone the past, is a formidable challenge. Yet, the very high rate of change today makes study of the past more important than ever before. *The Past as Prologue* explores the usefulness of the study of history for contemporary military strategists. It illustrates the great importance of military history while revealing the challenges of applying the past to the present. Essays from authors of diverse backgrounds – British and American, civilian and military – come together to present an overwhelming argument for the necessity of the study of the past by today's military leaders despite these challenges. The chapters of Part I examine the relationship between history and the military profession. Those in Part II explore specific historical cases that show the repetitiveness of certain military problems.

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# The past as prologue

*The importance of history  
to the military profession*

Edited by

WILLIAMSON MURRAY

*Institute of Defense Analysis*

RICHARD HART SINNREICH

*Carrick Communications, Inc.*



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To Andrew “Andy” Marshall and Theodore “Ted” Gold –  
two servants of freedom who have made a difference.

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