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Hannibal

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Ullman's main points are sound, even difficult to disagree with. But most of the points are not new. Furthermore, the book at times reads like a laundry list of things and people with which the author does not agree; he often voices this disagreement but provides little depth or analysis. He bounces around among multiple topics somewhat chaotically, from Vladimir Putin to presidential inexperience to Iran's nuclear ambitions to universal voting, and so forth. He wades into cyber. Climate change gets its own chapter. Infrastructure investment holds critical importance to him. And then the author tries to relate most of this back to the First World War. Sometimes the historical comparison has coherence, but at other times it does not work as well.

Nevertheless, the book structures itself in a unique way and provides a powerful argument for critical reform in the national security arena—even as the author himself notes it is unlikely his reforms will be implemented. Particularly penetrating are the reasons given for why the current national security apparatus is unsuitable to the task. The rate of government development has not kept up with the pace at which challenges are arising and the complexity of the world is increasing. Ullman argues that this has been demonstrated by the derelict mismanagement of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the haphazard drone policy, and the government's present vulnerability to cyber attacks. To meet these challenges, our government's new course of strategic thinking must effectuate a restructuring on par with the 1947 National Security Act. We must reform NATO into a multilateral institution capable of countering modern threats. Ullman argues for creating new metrics for measuring and understanding state power. The author also offers a variety of other, less controversial, unsystematic proposals. Depending on one's perspective, the reader may find the book's arguments to be somber and discouraging, to constitute a passionate call for action, or perhaps simply to represent a realistic paradigm for the present day. Whichever way, Ullman's book is a worthwhile read, and national security experts should consider his conceptual arguments.

JEREMY SNELLEN



Hannibal, by Patrick N. Hunt. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2017. 362 pages. $28.

The ancient historian Polybius cautioned against writing about a place to which one had not been, and Hannibal biographer and author Patrick N. Hunt has heeded this warning. An archaeologist and historian who has taught at Stanford University since 1993, Hunt has walked and studied every major Hannibal battlefield and tracked the military leader's routes from Carthage through Spain, France, Italy, and Turkey. The National Geographic Society's Expedition Council sponsored Hunt's 2007 and 2008 Hannibal expeditions. His archaeological fieldwork has concentrated on Hannibal for decades, and from 1994 to 2012 he was director of the Stanford Alpine Archaeology Project, leading expeditions in the Alps to explore routes Hannibal might have taken on his march on Rome. Hunt thus comes to the topic with decades of research, and this new biography is a welcome addition to the study of Hannibal and his methods of warfare. The result is a well-written study delivered via an engaging narrative.

Hunt provides a balanced and informative biography of a leader whom many regard as a military genius, analyzing Hannibal's weaknesses as well as his strengths. When people think of Hannibal, it is usually in reference to his use of elephants in the Alps in 218 BCE, but there is much more to the famous leader than this daunting mountain trek. Hannibal was born about 247 BCE and was raised in the aftermath of the bitter defeat of Carthage by Rome in the First Punic War. He was reared by his father, Hamilcar Barca, a Carthaginian general and statesman, to make and carry through on a vow to defeat Rome. Hunt's first chapter is dedicated to that vow to take revenge against the Romans, which was taken in the Temple of Baal in Carthage. At other places throughout the work Hunt reminds readers of the importance of religion in Roman and Punic cultures, and recounts its use by Hannibal and Roman civic and military leaders throughout the Second Punic War.

Hannibal's father died when Hannibal was in his teens, but the young man had learned well from him and rose quickly as a military leader. Determined and growing in power, Hannibal began a nearly two-decade war against Rome. Hunt contends that Hannibal had "an ability to understand and exploit weaknesses" (p. 24) and that he used that skill throughout his career. Coupled with his ability to make accurate military observations and assessments, this made him into a formidable foe against Rome.

In his account Hunt balances quite well the many classical sources, such as Polybius and Livy, with contemporary scholarship. His biography flows at a good pace and provides readers a well-documented work. His endnotes are thorough and interesting (note particularly his comments on Hannibal's eye disorder in the Arno marshes in the spring of 217 BCE and the military technology of Archimedes at Syracuse in 214–212 BCE), providing ample information and explanatory details for those who want to go deeper into specific topics. He does this without meanderings in the body of the text. The result is a delightful book to read and study. For this reviewer, the chapters on Hannibal in the Alps (chapter 9), the battle of Cannae (15), and the march on Rome (17) were the most captivating. Chapters on the campaign for southern Italy (16), the battle of Zama (22), and Hannibal's exile (23) may be the most instructive for current military leaders, as Hunt describes Hannibal's inability to reach a satisfying conclusion swiftly. He was a pragmatic leader and victorious in battle, but he could not win the war. Hunt understands the battle of Cannae (216 BCE) as Hannibal's pinnacle, but points out that it was also, ultimately, his undoing—the beginning of a ten-year occupation of southern Italy that gradually wore him down. Afterward he would be recalled to Carthage to fight the battle of Zama (202 BCE), a victory for Rome and Scipio Africanus that brought an end to the Second Punic War.

Hunt is at his best in showing how Hannibal skillfully used nature, geography, and weather to enhance his military strategies and planning. Of special interest to naval historians is Hunt's analysis of how, during the long campaign in southern Italy, Roman naval superiority prevented Hannibal from securing the support of allies through diplomacy. Despite Hannibal's success in building coalitions, his skillful use of intelligence, and his ability to adapt new

weapons technologies, he lacked the diplomatic skills to sustain his resources and thereby defeat his lifelong foe.

Hunt's *Hannibal* has excellent maps as well as an extensive bibliography. A brief chronology would have been helpful for a quick overview, but the chapter subsections and use of dates throughout the narrative help keep the reader on track. The volume is tremendous and highly recommended for the library of any military professional or military historian.

TIMOTHY J. DEMY

OUR REVIEWERS

Timothy J. Demy is a professor of military ethics at the Naval War College. He is a retired Navy chaplain and graduate of the Naval War College, College of Naval Warfare. Among other graduate degrees, he received the ThM and ThD from Dallas Theological Seminary and the MA and PhD from Salve Regina University. He is the author and editor of numerous articles and books.

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(Note: Dr. Gibbons worked for Colonel David Brostrom, father of Lieutenant Jonathan Brostrom, who was killed at the battle of Wanat.)

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