

## History 216 Writing Assignment.

You are required to write an argumentative essay that answers one of the following questions:

1. The war in Vietnam remains today one of the most divisive and most misunderstood conflicts in American history. German military theorist Carl von Clausewitz reminds us that war is best understood as being political in nature, yet Russell Weigley contends the American military oftentimes has pursued wartime strategies that considered only military factors in their formulation. In your opinion, did the tactics and strategy employed by the American military in Vietnam support or detract from the war's political goals?

Start Points: George Herring, *America's Longest War*.  
Andrew Krepinevich, *The Army and Vietnam*.

2. For nearly a century the advocates of air power have contended that strategic bombing, properly done, can bring a warring nation to its knees and win the war, obviating the need for a traditional military. This idea was the guiding force behind the conduct of the strategic air campaign against Germany during World War Two, against North Vietnam during the Vietnam War, and against Iraq during the Persian Gulf Conflict. Selecting one of these conflicts, evaluate the impact and contribution of strategic bombing to the American war effort.

Start Points: Stephen L. McFarland and Wesley Phillips Newton, *To Command the Sky: The Battle for Air Superiority over Germany, 1942-1944*.  
Richard Overy, *Why the Allies Won*. [World War Two]  
Mark Clodfelter, *The Limits of Air Power*. [Vietnam]  
Richard Hallion, *Storm Over Iraq*.

3. The friction between the allies in the European campaigns of World War Two is famous, especially the feud between Sir Bernard Law Montgomery and most of the American Army's leadership there. By comparison, friction between allies seldom became an issue in the Pacific campaigns of the Second World War simply because the United States was the dominant allied power in that theater. Still, politics played an important role there, but it was Army-Navy politics rather than inter-Allied politics. How did the Army-Navy rivalry in the Pacific effect the campaigns there?

Start Points: Samuel Morrison, *Two-Ocean War*.  
Eric Larabee, *Commander in Chief*.

4. Determine your own topic. If you decide to take this option, the topic must be submitted to me, in the form of a question, at the end of class next week, February 9.

## Additional Instructions

LENGTH. The final paper should be between 1500 and 2000 words in length and must be typewritten.

SOURCES AND CITING THEM. At a minimum, the paper should employ three books as sources of information. These books must be secondary sources (i.e., written by historians), *not* primary sources (i.e., written by participants). Assigned books for this course do not count against the requirement (Volumes of the various Time-Life histories **are not** appropriate for this assignment).

For first citation:

<sup>1</sup>Chester Wilmot, *Struggle for Europe* (New York: Carroll and Graf, 1952), 103-107.

For subsequent citations:

<sup>15</sup>Wilmot, *Struggle for Europe*, 376.

For other citation formats I urge you to refer to *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* by Kate Turabian (available at numerous bookstores or on-line). You might consider purchasing it as it will prove invaluable to during your college career.

PLAGIARISM. Plagiarism is the use of another person's words or ideas in your writing without giving proper credit to the author. It is plagiarism to copy text from a book, a web site, a journal or newspaper article, or from a friend's paper (to name just a few examples) without giving proper credit. It is also plagiarism to submit a paper that you did not write as your own work.

Any submission that I determine contains plagiarized material will receive a "zero" and the case will be referred to the college for further action.

FORMAT. The paper should be double-spaced and, if you use a computer, the font size should be set at "12". These measures will allow me to make legible comments on the text of the paper. Please place on the paper a cover sheet with your name and the paper's title. Finally, insure that every page is numbered and has your name on it.

BOOKS. With each question I have provided the title of at least two books that are a "start point", books to which you can turn to start your research. You are in no way obligated to look at or to use those books. It is simply my attempt to give you a "push" in the right direction. Also, the end of each chapter of *For the Common Defense* contains a section entitled "Selected Bibliography". These books, too, can be a start point. Indeed, you need go no farther than to find the books listed in the text.

INTERMEDIATE REQUIREMENT. Two weeks from tonight (February 16) you are to submit the topic you have chosen as well as a list of books (bibliography) that you intend to use in your research. This bibliography should be typewritten. I will return the bibliography the following class meeting (March 1). Though this requirement is ungraded, I will not accept a finished paper from you unless I have approved your bibliography. **I WILL ACCEPT NO BIBLIOGRAPHY AFTER MARCH 8.** Also, you **MUST** submit your approved bibliography, with my initials and comments, with your paper.

DUE DATE. The paper is due at the beginning of class on **April 19**. Papers submitted afterwards will receive a reduction of one letter grade. Papers submitted after the beginning of class on **April 26** will receive a “zero”.