

John Hattendorf. *HM 30: Reflections on Naval History: Collected Essays*. Newport, RI: U.S. Naval War College Press, www.usnwcpress/nwcpress, 2023. xiii+501 pp., notes, appendix, bibliography. Paperback, free download available; ISBN978-1-935352-81-5.

Title Number 30 in the Naval War College Monograph Series (1973-2023) is a collection of essays by John Hattendorf. The sheer breath of this collection commands attention. In his Introduction, Hattendorf sets the theme. "Reflecting on history," he writes, "is a basic function for an academic historian." The six parts – "Maritime History and the Historical Perspective"; "Early Modern Europe"; "The New Republic"; "The World Wars"; "Maritime History of, at, and near Newport, Rhode Island"; and "Naval Theory" – together comprise thirty essays spanning a period of four centuries. Hattendorf takes the reader on an extraordinary historical voyage beginning with "Ubi Sumus? Twenty-Five Years Later," a review of the expanding nature of maritime history. The collection concludes near the present moment with "Naval Power and the Multidimensional Roles of Naval Power," a paper delivered at the Third International Symposium on Security and Defense held in Lima, Peru.

For the most part, Hattendorf argues that traditional naval history has been written "from the limited viewpoint of a specific nation's history or through the biography of national naval histories." While recognizing the importance of this approach, it is, in his view, too narrow. To fully understand the role of the sea in human history, historians need to embrace a variety of disciplines, "including science and technology, industry, economics, trade and business, art, literature, military and naval affairs, and international relations." To be sure, this presents a daunting task, yet, despite the challenge, Hattendorf is optimistic as scholars move beyond battles and heroes, working to gather these disparate elements into the wider world of naval and maritime history.

While all thirty essays in this collection are well documented and elegantly written, "Part 2: Early Modern Europe" best captures Hattendorf's approach: an interdisciplinary analysis emphasizing technological developments guided by sophisticated organizational structures. The first essay in this section, "Navies and Naval Operations, 1400-1815," sets the stage with a wide-ranging historiographical analysis of "Naval power and Naval Operations, 1400-1815." During the first part of this period, until 1650, navies moved from a freebooting, somewhat unorganized style of warfare into more organized national fleets employing recognized tactics and coherent strategic goals. In the period following, 1650-1815, the evolution continued as navies, serving the interests of powerful "Fiscal-Bureaucratic States," contended for domination in Europe and elsewhere. Central to this period was the "Anglo-Dutch Rivalry." Between 1652 and 1676, England and the Dutch Republic

fought three naval wars. Each side, well led by experienced officers, focused on an offensive strategy deploying heavily armed, technologically advanced ships, directed by well-organized administrative structures, which were called to address complex logistical challenges. The remaining essays in this section touch on the continuing wars of the eighteenth century with one notable exception. While it fits into this time period, Hattendorf alters course slightly here, offering a well-crafted essay on the extraordinary career of Admiral of the Fleet James, First Baron Gambier, GCB.

In Part 5, “Maritime History of, at, and near Newport, Rhode Island,” Hattendorf displays his talents, not only as one of America’s premier naval historians, but also as a scholar closely attuned to his community of Newport, Rhode Island, and the institution he has served so well, the United States Naval War College.

While most of these essays have been published elsewhere, the Naval War College Press has done an extraordinary service bringing them together in one place. Beyond this collection, Hattendorf has been central to the Press’s overall success in this series, serving as editor for seven previous volumes. Indeed, recognizing his role, Volume 26 in the series bears his name, *The Hattendorf Prize Lectures*. While impressive, *Reflections on Naval History* represents only a portion of Hattendorf’s work, and, according to the bibliography, at least two more essays are forthcoming.

Since all reviews need some modicum of criticism, maps and illustrations would have been useful.

William M. Fowler
Boston, Massachusetts

Thomas C. Hone and Curtis A. Utz. *History of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations 1915-2015*. Washington, D.C.: Naval History and Heritage Command, Department of the Navy, www.history.navy.mil, 2023. xxiv+649 pp., illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. ISBN 978-1-943604-02-9 (cloth). (Free PDF download available)

Official history occupies a specific place in the institutional and corporate memory of governmental organizations. Like most of the US armed services, the United States Navy (USN) has an established historical branch, staffed by professional and contract historians, with a long record of publishing official histories on a wide variety of administrative, industrial, and operational topics. Official histories are usually long in gestation and benefit from privileged access to permanent government records. The centenary of the USN’s top leadership position – the Office of the Chief Naval Operations (CNO) – is a