

Mahan, A. T.

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Author: Naval War College

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Strategic Problems.

A

T O P I C
S T R A T E G Y

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The "Triple Alliance being broken and France and Germany having gone to war, Russia and Denmark join France, and England and Sweden join Germany.

Consider the resulting naval situation in the Mediterranean, Black Sea, Suez Canal &c.

France uses one-half of her naval force.

Russia " " " " " " "

England two-thirds " " " "

The navies of Germany, Sweden and Denmark are not engaged in the war in the Mediterranean, being occupied in the Baltic and the North Sea.

Turkey joins England, and other Mediterranean countries are neutral.

Describe the probable plans and objectives of the Franco-Russian Alliance. How should they be met by the English.

There has been sufficient warning of war, for the fleets on both sides to assemble at points indicated by their leaders, at the moment of declaration of war.

Name these probable points of assemblage and describe disposition of the forces on both sides. Name the plans and objectives of the English Alliance.

Consider the strategy of this campaign in relation to the geography, the ports of supply, the harbors of naval refuge, and discuss the possible strategic combinations.

The campaign to begin June 1st and end October 1st.

B

T O P I C O N S T R A T E G Y .

-----ooOoo-----

The " Triple Alliance " being broken and France and Germany having gone to war, Russia and Denmark join France, and England and Sweden join Germany.

The Canal between the Baltic and North Sea is completed and is held by Germany. In the Baltic and North Sea

France uses one-half of her naval force.

Russia " " " " " " "

England " one-third " " " "

Germany " all " " " "

Sweden " all " " " "

Denmark " " " " " "

Discuss this naval situation. Describe the probable plans and objectives of the French alliance. How should they be met by the German alliance?

There has been sufficient warning of war, for the fleets on both sides to assemble at points indicated by their leaders, at the moment of declaration of war.

Name these probable points of assemblage and describe disposition of the forces on both sides. Name the plans and objectives of the German alliance.

Consider the strategy of this campaign in relation to the geography, the ports of supply, the harbors of naval refuge, and discuss the possible strategic combinations.

The campaign to begin June 1st and end October 1st.

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NICARAGUA CANAL.

C.

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The Nicaragua Canal was built and is operated by an American Commercial Company. Owing to difficulties arising from the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, war breaks out between Great Britain and the United States. The Canal is seized and held by an English fleet from Jamaica. All vessels now building or authorized for the United States can be considered as available for service. Great Britain employs one fourth of her present fleet. No land forces are to be used except those afforded by the usual organizations of the respective fleets. The objective of the Campaign on the part of the United States is the re-possession, with full use of the Canal. What plans would you propose for effecting this purpose? The theatre of war is confined to the West Indies, Caribbean Sea and the Pacific in the vicinity of Central America.

5

T O P I C

COMMERCE DESTROYING

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Being in command of the U.S.S. "Columbia", and senior officer of a squadron composed of the "Columbia", and the "City of New York" and "City of Paris" armed with rapid-fire guns, you are ordered to effect a diversion by cruising against the enemy's commerce in order to draw off a part of the fleet which is blockading our Atlantic coast. The enemy is assumed to be Great Britain. The conditions as to coaling stations and neutral ports are as expressed by the United States during the Franco-German war. Draw up a plan of your cruise and proposed operations.

What would be the policy of Japan? What force could she command? and should she go to war - discuss fully her strategy, plan of campaign, objectives, and state what tactical conditions might modify her conduct of the war.

Consider especially the supply of coal and other stores to both belligerents. What would be the attitude of China and Korea? What would be the nature of a winter campaign?

about
Discuss the problem of war between Japan and Russia, first, assuming China remains an ally, second, China allied with Russia, third, China and Russia versus Japan and England.

Topic.

S T R A T E G Y.

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I

War is possible between Japan and Russia. Discuss briefly the present political conditions, as far as known, and the probability of war breaking out, and of other nations becoming involved in it.

State the objectives of Russia, and consider what force, military and naval, she probably could bring to bear against Japan, on the assumption that no other European nation join the war. Discuss fully the strategy Russia should adopt, give in detail the plan of campaign, and discuss the relative advantages of the various possible naval bases.

What would be the policy of Japan? What force could she command? If she should go to war, discuss fully her strategy, plan of campaign, objectives, and state what tactical conditions might modify her conduct of the war.

Consider especially the supply of coal and other stores to both belligerents. What would be the attitude of China and Korea? What would be the nature of a winter campaign?

II. Discuss the ^{above} problem of war between Japan and Russia; - first, assuming China remains neutral; second, China allied with Russia; - third China and Russia versus Japan and England.

Naval history.
Naval administration.

Consider the common ground occupied by the Naval Administration and the Statesman, and the necessity for the study of International Law and the traditional foreign policy of the United States.

The Naval Administrator to be successful must be something of a Statesman; his field is spread over the entire face of the navigable waters, in all parts of the globe, where American interests are represented. This with the discipline, management and direction of the military movements of the fleet will engage the entire attention of himself and staff, leaving no time to devote to the purely civil functions of the department of the navy, such as the procurement of naval stores and materials, and the construction, armament, and equipage^{ment} of vessels of war.

Naval history.
Strategy.

In reference to war, when do the operations of Naval Strategy begin? and illustrate Naval Strategy, giving examples

What is the difference between Naval Strategy and Military Strategy - what essential difference as given in the definition of the two terms?

What form of Naval Administration best adapted for the strategic movements?

What form of Naval Administration best adapted for the conduct of war?

Should the Naval Administration best adapted for war differ from that of a time of peace? Give reasons and illustrations from history.

Naval history.
Strategy.

Define and illustrate Naval Strategy, giving examples from history of the necessity of understanding the general principles underlying the conduct of Naval Warfare. Discuss the Naval Strategy of the Dutch during the time of De Ruyter.

The Naval Strategy of the English which ended in the battle of the Nile.

The Naval Strategy of the English and of the French during the Naval Campaign which ended in the battle of Trafalgar.

Why is the Naval Administration directly interested in fostering and encouraging the shipping interests of the United States? (Consult the Merchant Shipping Bill.)

Naval History
Sea power.

What are the principal elements of Sea Power?

How far are those elements possessed by the United States?

How far is Sea Power necessary to the strength and security of the nation and to the maintenance of its position as the dominant power of the Western world?

How may we best develop the Sea Power of the United States? And why is it necessary that it should be at once started on the lines of development?

Why is the Naval Administration directly interested in fostering and encouraging the shipping interests of the United States? (Consult the Pnythian Shipping Bill.)

NAVAL HISTORY.

Topic (a)

Who were the principal maritime belligerents in the war of 1778 - 1783?

What were the respective conditions as to force?

What were the respective conditions as to geographical position;-i.e., Situation of the naval bases and points of maritime or military, i.e. naval, interest?

Under these circumstances what were the crucial features of the naval situation as affecting naval strategy?

What would have been the correct general course to be adopted by Great Britain?

NAVAL HISTORY.

Topic (b)

What should have been the aim of the nations allied *Great Britain in the war 1778-1783* against ~~her~~, and what general policy should therefore have characterized their naval efforts?

Great Britain being generally on the defensive, and having interests in many quarters of the world, what successive steps should she have taken in order to reduce the amount of work she had to do, and what use of naval power would have been most likely at once to protect her varied interests and to give final success? Illustrate by examples?

NAVAL HISTORY.

Topic (c)

In wars between Great Britain on one side and France
1778-1783
and Spain on the other what was the determining feature in the
conditions of the latter two that should have dictated, and often
did dictate, the naval strategy of Great Britain?

In what wars was this policy followed by Great Britain,
and in what ones was it not? and what, in consequence were the
in each case? In giving the general results,
general results, state some specific instances?

To what, in land strategy, does the correct policy,
correspond? State the technical name for positions taken.

Naval history.

Naval policy.

Speaking generally, what is the true objective of a military force, in a campaign, and why?

What are the principal constituents of a navy?

Why should the line-of-battle constitute the main dependence of the country?

What effect has commerce destroying on the ultimate result of a war, and how far should it be depended upon as a factor in Naval operations?

Give examples from the old French wars and from the war of 1812 and the Civil War in the United States, to illustrate the value of commerce destroying as a war measure.

Here, indicating essential points of resemblance, of analogy, and of difference?

In what ways does the consideration of commerce affect naval strategy, both military and naval? Give instances and explicitly consider the question in relation to the war of 1812.

NAVAL HISTORY.

Topic (d)

Speaking generally, what is the true objective of a military force, in a campaign, and why?

What is the comparative value of naval bases and naval fleets in war? Why?

Naval Tactics.

Why is it possible to have too many bases? And what is the injurious effect thereof?

Give a comprehensive definition of the word " Communications " as applied to land warfare, and then to naval warfare, indicating essential points of resemblance, of analogy, and of difference?

In what ways does the consideration of communications affect naval strategy, both military and naval? Give instances, and especially consider the question in relation to the war of 1878.

1778.

Naval history

Naval Tactics.

Give briefly the distinguishing characteristics of Ruyter, Tourville, Hawke, Rodney, Howe, St. Vincent, Nelson, and Farragut as tacticians and as strategists, illustrating from their operations.