like opdragte aan ondergeskiktes, bied hy die vyfparagraafformaat van operasie-orders, wat ook die bevelvoerder se plan kan insluit, aan. Hy verskaf 'n uiteensetting van die oorsprong daarvan in die Amerikaanse Leër en hoe dit tans gebruik word.

_The Framework for Operational Warfare_ is 'n aktuele werk wat handige riglyne aan politici en krygspraktisyns op verskillende verantwoordelikhedsvlakke verskaf. Dit is hoofsaaklik geskryf in die verhyë van die bevelvoerder, wat die riglyne vir optrede tydens die Koue Oorlog verskaaf het. Sy ontdelings berus dan ook op konflikte waarby die VSA gedurende die tagtigerjare betrokke was. Ongelukkig is die boek voor die Golfoorlog van 1992 geskryf en 'n opgedateerde tweede uitgawe kan hierdie leemte aanspreek.

Wat afbreek doen aan die werk is dat die skrywer 'n gewoonte het om argumente voortdurend te herhaal. Sy styl is ook nie altyd vloeiend nie. Gevolglik is die boek effens moeilik om te lees. Hy was ook geneig om hoofsaaklik klem te le på konflikte waarin die Amerikaanse Weermag sukses behaal het, soos die operasies in Grenada en Panama. Alhoewel hy die Amerikaanse debakel in Beirut bespreek, kon die ruimte wat afgestaan was aan onnodige herhaling van argumente, benut gewees het om die gebeure in Nicaragua te bespreek. Sy fokus was te veel op kleiner konvensionele konflikte, terwyl 'n mens graag ook die Amerikaanse probleme tydens teeninsurgensie-operasies gedurende die tagtigerjare in die bespreking sou wou gesien het.

_A Framework for Operational Warfare_ is 'n belangrike toevoeging tot die literatuur oor hedendaagse oorloovoering en die gebruik van oorlog as 'n magsinstrument deur state in die internasionale politiek. Dit is veral noodsakeklik vir vooraardige studente, wat nog nie die aard van militêre mag as 'n middel om staatsgesag te handhaaf, bestudeer nie. Maar ook die gesoute student van oorloovoering kan Newell se boek met vroeg bestudeer.

Lt Kol C.J. Jacobs, Dokumentasiëdsie SANW, Privaatsak X289, Pretoria, 0001.

Over forty biographies and partial biographies have been written on the life and times of Charles De Gaulle. "The Last Great Frenchman" by Charles Williams is the latest in this long line of studies devoted to one of France's greatest sons.

People often view biographies with hesitancy as they tend to become rather turgid and weighed down by the mass of detail and facts which follow one through life. From this point of view _The Last Great Frenchman_ is refreshingly compelling. The tempo of the text is very upbeat making it an easy book to "get into", this is aided by Williams's writing style which, aside from being very articulate in its expression, can also be enormously funny when the situation warrants it. As the story unfolds, however, the sheer weight of detail forces one to slow down in order that one might be able to absorb the weight of historical facts contained therein. However, it should be reiterated that this does not result in stretches of colourless narrative. In fact Williams' approach is always analytical and never just a simple presentation of the facts. It is furthermore a refreshingly balanced study, there are times when criticism is levelled at De Gaulle while on other occasions his actions and decisions are defended. Naturally...
one does not always agree with the arguments presented in the book, however, they are always sound and well motivated which is more important than whether they may be appealing or not.

As far as the contents of Williams' book are concerned, the focus of the work would seem to fall largely on De Gaulle's rise to fame and power during the Second World War as the leader of the Free French. Illuminating aspects of his life during this period are brought to the fore, most notably his uneasy relationships with Winston Churchill and the other Allied leaders as well as within the upper echelons of his own Free French. Useful insight is also provided into the general's private life and reveals a side to the man which differs quite vastly from his authoritarian public image. This is not intended to imply that Williams does not cover De Gaulle's life in full as The Last Great Frenchman begins with his childhood in Brittany and ends with his death 1970.

The book itself is a hardback, ensconced in a very eye-catching and attractive dustcover. Complete with illustrations, index and extensive source notes this is not only a good read but a valuable and accurate reference work as well. A very wide range of sources were consulted including primary records from both official archives and private collections. What is unfortunately lacking are translations to the numerous and important bits of French which appear at frequent intervals throughout the work. This can be rather frustrating for someone whose French is as appalling as mine is, particularly if the reader is trying to follow the text as closely as possible.

In the final analysis what sets the book aside from other De Gaulle biographies is probably its emphasis on De Gaulle's military life and the rise of the Free French. It should be pointed out that while this might be considered a serious and detailed biography it is nevertheless, highly readable and provides an enriching and educational experience.

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