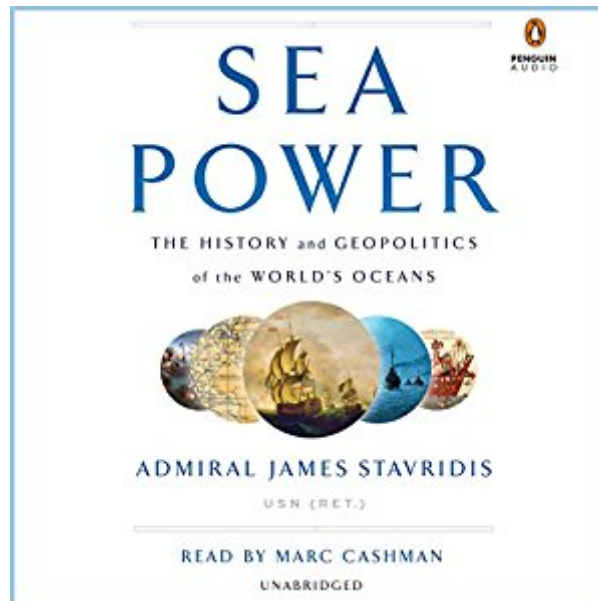




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# **Sea Power: The History And Geopolitics Of The World's Oceans**



## Synopsis

From one of the most admired admirals of his generation - and the only admiral to serve as supreme allied commander at NATO - comes a remarkable voyage through all of the world's most important bodies of water, providing the story of naval power as a driver of human history and a crucial element in our current geopolitical path. From the time of the Greeks and the Persians clashing in the Mediterranean, sea power has determined world power. To an extent that is often underappreciated, it still does. No one understands this better than Admiral Jim Stavridis. In *Sea Power*, Admiral Stavridis takes us with him on a tour of the world's oceans from the admiral's chair, showing us how the geography of the oceans has shaped the destinies of nations and how naval power has in a real sense made the world we live in today and will shape the world we live in tomorrow. Not least, *Sea Power* is marvelous naval history, giving us fresh insight into great naval engagements from the battles of Salamis and Lepanto through to Trafalgar, the Battle of the Atlantic, and submarine conflicts of the Cold War. It is also a keen-eyed reckoning with the likely sites of our next major naval conflicts, particularly the Arctic Ocean, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the South China Sea. Finally, *Sea Power* steps back to take a holistic view of the plagues to our oceans that are best seen that way, from piracy to pollution. When most of us look at a globe, we focus on the shape of the seven continents. Admiral Stavridis sees the shapes of the seven seas. After listening to *Sea Power*, you will, too. Not since Alfred Thayer Mahan's legendary *The Influence of Sea Power upon History* have we had such a powerful reckoning with this vital subject.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a very important book. Americans must not underestimate the importance of U.S. sea power in the 21st century. This much admired admiral tells us why through reflecting on history's transformative oceanic conflicts and presenting a strong case for a future geopolitical strategy of international cooperation. The author addresses, among other matters, the preservation of freedom of transit in international waters and the need for considerable attention to the choke points of the world's waterways, while calling attention to critical environmental issues and to the deleterious effects of both pollution and over fishing. It is a thoughtful work. The chapter on the Arctic, alone, is a gem. Sue Cobb, Coral Gables, Florida

Alfred Thayer Mahan's name is one of those essential "must-knows" for historians. Writing in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Mahan stressed the importance of sea power in the history of nations and called for the United States to build a large navy and a global empire. His books influenced leaders and strategists the world over, including President Theodore Roosevelt. It is no exaggeration to credit Mahan for much of US naval policy in the last century. Admiral James Stavridis studied Mahan at Annapolis and kept his precepts in mind throughout his illustrious 35 year career in the US Navy, culminating as Supreme Allied Commander for Global Operations at NATO. Now retired, his *Sea Power: The History and Geopolitics of the World's Oceans* recalls many of Mahan's ideas, but analyzes, refines, and sometimes discards them in the light of 21st century realities. Stavridis first gives his readers seven chapters in which he analyzes the histories, challenges, and opportunities to be found in each of the world's seven oceans, followed by an eighth in which he analyzes the problems of piracy and other criminal acts on the seas and a ninth (which I found the most interesting of all) focused on US naval strategies for the 21st century. In each chapter Stavridis recounts memories of his own career, which began at age 17 in 1972 when he went to sea after his first year at Annapolis. These memories are frank and often amusing, since Stavridis is secure enough not to mind pointing out his own mistakes. Throughout each chapter Stavridis makes it clear that he believes in free trade, strong international cooperation and alliances, and the necessity of confronting and dealing with the problems of climate change. I found his recommendations in the final chapter to be clear headed and reasonable, and I trust that he has laid them before our political leadership in greater detail. Like most Americans, I have enormous respect for the men and women who serve in our military. While I remember reading about Stavridis while he was still on active duty, I did not realize what an admirable and intelligent man he must be until I read *Sea Power*. While Stavridis does not always agree with him, I believe Alfred Thayer Mahan

would see him as a worthy successor.

The method of describing the history and the geography of each ocean system works well and serves a primer of geopolitics. The last chapter of the book is an outstanding update of Mahan's theory. The author makes great use of his 37 years in the U.S. Navy.

Bought this for my husband and he really likes it ...

Not only is this an excellent look at the geo-political history of our oceans, it's also an excellent read on the history leading to contemporary issues. While not the most in-depth look at every single conflict fought on the seas, it certainly touches on the major events, while at the same time providing further reading recommendations for anyone who wants more information. In fact I've already purchased a half dozen other books that the Admiral recommended. It's also interesting to read the Admiral's commentary on his service and his first experiences in different parts of the world. Strongly recommend this to just about anyone. It's accessible and engaging.

ok

Interesting

This book explains the US dependence on its navy. Well written and very good attention to detail. Creates a real appreciation for the Navy.

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