

## Naval War College Review

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Volume 51  
Number 3 *Summer*

Article 18

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1998

# Multinational Naval Forces: From Theory to Practice

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### Recommended Citation

Avella, Jay R. (1998) "Multinational Naval Forces: From Theory to Practice," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 51 : No. 3 , Article 18.  
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol51/iss3/18>

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defense is all about will find this book a worthwhile investment.

LILLIAN A. BURKE  
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy

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Haydon, Peter T., and Ann L. Griffiths, eds. *Multinational Naval Forces: From Theory to Practice*. Halifax: Dalhousie Univ. Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, 1996. 261pp. \$19.95 (CDN)

Thomas, Robert H. *Multinational Naval Cooperation* (Maritime Security Paper no. 3). Halifax: Dalhousie Univ. Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, 1996. 98pp. \$9.35 (CDN)

*Multinational Naval Forces* documents the proceedings of a three-day workshop held at the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies in July 1995. It brought together many international participants, including representatives from the U.S. Naval War College and the Center for Naval Analyses. As might be expected, however, the majority of those who attended were from the Canadian Maritime Command and the Centre itself. The purpose of this workshop was to "examine the interplay of political, military, and other factors that govern the ways by which ships of different navies can work together." Participants looked at three issues: interaction of political and military planning criteria and concepts, civil-military relations, and the impact of the media. These were examined under the rubrics of planning, organizational concepts, and lessons learned from recent Canadian experience. Individual chapters

(although not organized as such) document the individual presentations and cover such varied topics as "Media Relations and Multinational Naval Operations," "Is a Standing UN Naval Force Realistic?" and "Canadian Coordination of the Persian Gulf Combat Logistics Force."

The editors admit that when a workshop covers as many and as varied topics as this one did, it is sometimes difficult to draw conclusions. Still the papers carry one common thread: that multinational naval operations can work and achieve success, but the key is planning, and the biggest impediment is the disconnect between political expectations and military capabilities.

*Multinational Naval Cooperation* was published as Maritime Security Paper no. 3 by the Centre, an internationally recognized institute for the study of maritime security and oceans policy. It examines the evolution of multinational naval cooperation, noting that the precedent had been set at the Battle of Salamis (480 B.C.), when a naval alliance of Greek city-states successfully cooperated in the defeat of the Persians. However, specific details begin with World War I and trace the varying models for cooperation up through the intervention in Haiti in 1994.

Robert Thomas, the author of *Multinational Naval Cooperation*, is a retired captain in the Canadian navy with over thirty years of experience in both operational and staff assignments. Thomas holds both a B.A. and an M.A. from the Royal Military College. He is a graduate of the Canadian Land Forces and Canadian Forces Command and Staff colleges, and he directed National

Security Studies at the latter. His final tour of duty was as Director of National Security Studies at the National Defence College. Since retirement, he has published extensively on Canadian and international security issues.

His monograph brings home quite clearly the changing role of naval cooperation over the last eighty years. Thomas notes that the change has had significant impact on nations with small to medium navies. He uses history quite effectively to put the present in context and introduce how the future of naval cooperation will be affected. He observes with great clarity the challenges facing increased naval cooperation, categorizing them as strategic, political, operational, and professional.

By far, the work's most significant value lies in the final two chapters, wherein Thomas projects what the future might hold and then draws his conclusions. He notes that the demise of the Warsaw Pact and the end of the Cold War make participation in multinational naval cooperative ventures less attractive for many nations whose national pride need no longer be swallowed up by American leadership. Conversely, the realities of U.S. naval downsizing may produce a more selective intervention policy by the United States, particularly in those areas where its interests are minimal.

For the naval professional, both *Multinational Naval Forces* and *Multinational Naval Cooperation* cover familiar ground, and in that regard one might be tempted to relegate both to the pile labeled "old news." Still, in the same fashion that the U.S. military is evolving more and more toward increased interoperability, there

is a need for the navies of the world to follow the same path. Both books do an excellent job of summarizing the key issues. For those who have never worn a naval uniform, or who have only passing knowledge of cooperative naval operations, or have never heard of the Nato Standing Naval Forces in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, these books will provide an excellent summary on the subject.

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Gray, Chris Hables. *Postmodern War*.  
New York: The Guilford Press,  
1997. 314pp. \$23.95

Any book that contains as its last two sentences the observation that "War is very strong. We must be stronger" would seem to have worked with great vigor toward a conclusion that is worthy only of reproduction as a bumper sticker. Fortunately, the journey Gray offers us is more interesting than his destination. This book is an exploration of the current state of the military and warfare, supported by a historical explanation of how both came to be as they are.

The title may be troublesome, sending some potential readers elsewhere at first glance. "Postmodern" suggests methods of examination rooted in literary and cultural criticism, not security affairs, and many believe that postmodernism is ill formed, silly, or so self-referential that it defies its own definition. There are certainly such elements in this work, many of them extremely frustrating, even infuriating, but there are also points at