THE HISTORY OF OFFICER SOCIAL ORIGINS, SELECTION, EDUCATION
AND TRAINING SINCE THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY:
AN INTRODUCTORY BIBLIOGRAPHY

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PREFACE

Selecting, educating, and training officers are among the most important activities of every military organization. The process began in a systematic way in a few European nations in the eighteenth century and was one of several developments marking the military’s emergence as a distinct profession.

This bibliography, prepared in conjunction with the USAF Academy’s Seventeenth Military History Symposium on the education and training of junior officers, identifies a wide range of English-language scholarship on officer selection and preparation. Its 1600 entries, authored by specialists from a variety of disciplines as well as active and retired military officers, survey the history of and key issues related to officer development in more than fifty nations from the eighteenth century to the present. Such broad coverage should make the bibliography a valuable aid not only for students and scholars, but also for those actively involved in selecting, educating, and training officers at all levels.

[Signature]
ROBEN A. CUÑERO  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Dean of the Faculty
INTRODUCTION

The body of scholarship in all languages on officer social origins, selection, education, and training since the eighteenth century is extensive. This bibliography is limited to sources published in English and represents but a fraction of the available literature.

Although there are exceptions in each instance, the general criteria used in determining the sources to be included in the bibliography were: secondary works published since approximately 1945; scholarship from all disciplines, with an emphasis on historical studies; and world-wide coverage since the eighteenth century at all levels, from initial entry through advanced officer education and training programs. Exceptions to the post-1945 distinction are histories of military education and training institutions, such as precommissioning academies, and staff and war colleges. Memoirs are not included; neither are the many government and internal military service reports on officer education and training, except in the case of the United States after 1945.

The first section of the bibliography is devoted to general and comparative studies. Subsequent entries are organized alphabetically by country, and, within each national section, alphabetically by author’s last name. In addition to sections for individual nations in Africa and Latin America, there are separate sections listing general works on officer development in those regions.

Previous bibliographies in this series were limited to sources held by the USAF Academy Library. This bibliography, however, also lists works not found in the Academy Library’s collection. Nevertheless, the overwhelming majority are available at the Academy Library and are identified by call number.
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