

Second, "What, if anything does this volume add to our understanding of MacArthur or add to the body of knowledge existing on him?" Third, "How does this book compare to the others focused on MacArthur?" Finally, "Is this book worthy of reading?" Let me answer each of these below.

In distinguishing Herman's effort from past MacArthur volumes, the clear difference is his use of previously unavailable sources. In the past few years, several have become available to the public. This includes newly declassified documents from the National Archives and the U.S. Center of Military History. Perhaps, more importantly, he had access to recently released Russian and Chinese archival documents, and availability of a 1998 oral interview MacArthur's wife Jean gave, which was stored in the MacArthur Memorial. In total, they are a collection of sources which previous biographers were not afforded, and Herman utilizes them well within the volume to reinforce his position.

Despite the addition of the above sources, it would be a stretch to proclaim that *American Warrior* adds significantly to the existing body of knowledge on MacArthur. Certainly, these sources assist him in adding important background throughout the biography. They are particularly valuable in Herman's discussion of MacArthur's role in U.S. foreign policy. It is Herman's ability to articulate this role that is one of the major strengths of this book.

With so many biographies written on MacArthur, comparison is a challenge. With critics, several have stood out in their quality. These include *American Caesar* by William Manchester, Geoffrey Perret's *Old Soldiers Never Die*, and the recent *The Most Dangerous Man in America* by Mark Perry. Overall, I believe *American Warrior* clearly compares favorably in many areas with these books. In particular, I will address the objectivity and the readability of the volume.

The biggest test authors have in crafting a biography on MacArthur is being as balanced as possible in their approach. Truly, there are few more polarizing figures in history than MacArthur. It is extremely easy for authors to let their overall opinion of MacArthur make a biography overly positive or negative in tone. I believe readers will find this biography as pro-MacArthur — but not overtly so. Herman is unquestionably generous on his compliments of MacArthur, but he is also critical of his subject when he feels it is merited. In my opinion, it is one of the fairest depictions of MacArthur.

The quality which tremendously assists Herman in achieving this depiction is the superb readability of *American Warrior*. This is one of best written volumes I have read in recent memory. It is difficult to envision a volume weighing in at well over 800 pages as being a page-turner, but this is truly the case. It is crafted in a very conversant style and will immediately engage the reader.

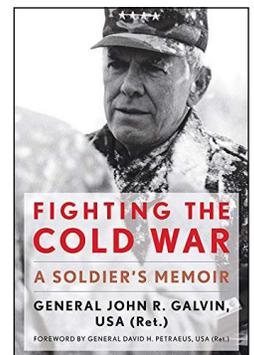
In his introduction, Herman states, "In short, it is time for a biography that gives this larger-than-life figure his full due by peeling back the layers of myth, both pro and con, and revealing the marrow of the man, and his career."

In essence, his goal is to make his volume the definitive biography on MacArthur. To be honest, that is an incredibly ambitious goal. It is a goal that has not been attained yet, and because of the complexity of the man and his polarizing nature, it will likely go unachieved.

What Herman has accomplished is writing a biography which is balanced, highly readable, and informative. For those who have read some of the other outstanding biographies on MacArthur and are steadfast in their opinions on him, this may be a volume you can pass on. However, if you are seeking to read your first biography on the man, this is an excellent choice. Don't let the length of the volume preclude you from reading *American Warrior*. They are pages well-worth consuming.

Fighting the Cold War: A Soldier's Memoir
By GEN (Retired)
John R. Galvin
Lexington, KY: University
of Kentucky Press, 2015,
568 pages

Reviewed by Maj Timothy Heck,
U.S. Marine Corps Reserve



As tensions between the United States and Russia continue to simmer, the memoirs of the late GEN (Retired) John R. Galvin, NATO's last Cold War commander, offer a more nuanced view than the standard black and white portrayal of the adversary. *Fighting the Cold War*, which spans Galvin's life from youth to West Point to Vietnam to NATO command and beyond, is a free-roaming reflection on the events, people, and causes that made GEN Galvin one of the key architects to the peaceful end of the Cold War. Galvin's stories reveal him to be an adept commander, staff officer, and an astute judge of human character.

Throughout his early military career, GEN Galvin was placed in assignments that were not necessarily career-enhancing. When his Ranger School and West Point classmates headed to assignments in Germany, Galvin went to Puerto Rico to a unit about to furl its colors. From Puerto Rico, he served as an advisor and instructor with the Colombian Escuela de Lanceros where he saw firsthand a counterinsurgency and learned how to work with foreign forces, experiences that would benefit him later in his career. Later, with the 101st Airborne Division he was transferred from company command to running an administrative center, a less-than-desirable career step. Regardless of his circumstances, GEN Galvin managed to improve the Soldiers, their support of the division, and his proficiency through leadership, "self-awareness, [emphasis

on] teamwork, communication, and sensitivity to change.”

GEN Galvin’s candor about his relief in Vietnam as a brigade operations officer during his first tour is refreshing. Furthermore, it serves as a reminder that not every commander-subordinate relationship is destined to be smooth and harmonious. In Galvin’s case, it was a matter of chemistry rather than competence. Nevertheless, the relief left him stunned. As he had in Puerto Rico and in the administrative center, Galvin picked himself up and focused on learning what lessons he could from the experience. After stewing as an extra officer on staff, he found a job with the 1st Cavalry Division to finish his tour, not letting his relief alter his sense of mission in Vietnam. This sense of mission and need to contribute, though, do not leave him immune from some soul-searching about his place in an action-oriented Army after years spent thinking at Columbia University, West Point, and Fort Leavenworth.

GEN Galvin’s role as a thinker benefitted him greatly as he went from Vietnam to the Pentagon, all the while working on a book about the development of airmobile warfare, something based on his experience in Vietnam. His role in the Pentagon Papers is interesting, although he avoids any discussion of his feelings or thoughts about their release and impact on the American effort in Vietnam. Further staff assignments in Germany, interspersed with command in Germany, the United States, and Latin America reveal Galvin to be a leader dedicated to his mission, his men, and the larger picture of America’s presence in the world.

Of particular note are his command of United States Southern Command (1985-1987) and subsequent command of NATO forces as the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) from 1987 to 1992. While in Latin America, GEN Galvin tackled ongoing insurgencies in four countries, a corrupt Noriega government in Panama, and was tangentially involved in the Iran-Contra Affair. The assignment, he reveals, honed his skills as a leader of troops and a

diplomatic figure representing American foreign policy.

In Europe, General Galvin again returned to the main theater of the Cold War. As SACEUR, Galvin had to address issues of deterrence and defense. Defense, he claimed, was easier because he had “trained for that all [his] life.” Deterrence, however, required “politics and psychology and coordination with the kinds of people I have never really known.” As a result, he focused on nuclear issues, disarmament talks, and the eventual end of the Soviet Union. Both roles required him to be a diplomat as well as a troop commander. His command in Germany also involved delicate diplomatic maneuverings as NATO’s military leader with all the subtleties inherent in multinational involvement. GEN Galvin’s memoirs offer prime examples of how to build and mature an alliance that buttress Secretary of Defense James Mattis’ recent reminder “that no nation is secure without friends.”

Some readers might find Galvin’s writing style distracting. Long an adherent to 3x5 note cards to record his thoughts, he made extensive use of them in preparing this book. As a result, stories do not always have a smooth transition from one to another, creating a somewhat choppy narrative. This does not, however, detract from the core message and ultimate value of the work.

The fine balance between thinking and acting is one of the consistent themes in *Fighting the Cold War*. Whether dealing with the paperwork headaches in the 101st or disarmament talks with his Soviet counterparts, GEN Galvin’s memoir reveals an astute and self-reflective leader who grasped the many dimensions of senior command. The book offers ideas and examples of how to be an effective commander and staff officer at all levels, how to deal with foreign forces, and how to deal with profound change. As we prepare for an uncertain future, *Fighting the Cold War* provides insights on how to approach change thoughtfully, with emphasis on self-reflection, teamwork, and communication.

Have you read a book lately that you think would be of interest to the Infantry community and want to submit a review? Or are you interested in being a book reviewer for *INFANTRY*?

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