

American Military History

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Recommended Research Resources

[WSU History and Political Science LibGuide](#)

Best place to begin your research -- this is a curated list of resources available through our library specific to History. I recommend "US History in Context" and "World History in Context" as reliable reference databases for topics related to this course. They provide access to specialized encyclopedia content (for example: *Americans at War*, *Encyclopedia of the Civil War*, *Encyclopedia of the American Military*), which often provide further suggested reading or connect you to original sources.

[Oxford Companion to Military History / Oxford Companion to American Military History](#)

We have access to both of these reference works as e-Books through Worcester State Library, just put either title into the main library EBSCO Search box.

[WSU Library Databases: Military / Military and Intelligence / Military & Government Collection](#)

WSU students have access to these three specialized databases through our library website. This should work for consortium students, too – let me know if you hit roadblocks trying to use them.

DPLA Primary Source Sets

The DPLA is a huge online repository of digitized source material from libraries, archives, and museums. The Primary Source Sets are educator-curated collections of primary sources related to particular topics in American history, many of them military-related. Examples: [Road to Revolution 1763-1776](#); [Turning Points of the Revolutionary War Saratoga and Valley Forge](#); [War of 1812](#); [Battle of Gettysburg](#); [Women in the Civil War](#); [American Imperialism / Spanish-American War](#); [America Heads to World War I](#); [African-American Soldiers in WWI](#); [Attacks on American Soil: Pearl Harbor and 9/11](#); [The Atomic Bomb and the Nuclear Age](#); and [Vietnam: The Things They Carried](#).

Army University Press / Center for Military History

The publishers of our two-volume textbook also publish many other books, scholarly journals, papers, and reference materials, most of which are available free as downloadable PDFs. This link takes you to their website, where you can navigate to their various publications. See also <https://history.army.mil/>

West Point Digital History Center - Atlases

West Point has made many of its atlases and maps available for free online. This is a fantastic resource for military cartography.

Combat Studies Institute Battle Maps

These battle maps were created by the Army's Combat Studies Institute, available as downloadable documents or Powerpoints.

[Center for American War Letters](#)

A digital collection from Chapman University of letters from every American military conflict.

[Private Art's War](#)

A published collection of one soldier's letters from the European theater of World War II.

[Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress](#)

A collection of veterans' oral histories, from the Library of Congress American Folklife Center.

[Stars and Stripes Archive](#)

Stars and Stripes is the daily independent newspaper of the U.S. military. The archives contains both the main paper and specialized ones published globally by & for service members, dating from 1948 - 1999.

[Fold3](#)

If you're searching for a particular veteran, soldier, sailor, or minuteman, Fold3 is the go-to research site. Note that it is a subscription service, but there is a 7-day free trial so if you know what you're looking for and can get your work done inside of a week, it won't cost you.

[Wikipedia](#), *when used cautiously*. Many wars, battles, military figures, and military-related events are well covered on Wikipedia, largely because of the demographics and research

interests of the population who serve as volunteer editors. I recommend scrolling straight to the bottom for See Also, Notes, References, Further Reading, and External Links, which often take you to original and/or scholarly sources. Just be careful to verify anything you find on Wikipedia from other reliable sources. A Wikipedia entry, on its own, isn't an approved source for papers in this class.