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Name: Alfred Thayer Mahan

Years: September 27, 1840-December 1 1914

Residence: West Point, NY;

Brief Biography:

Alfred Thayer Mahan was born to Dennis Hart Mahan and Mary Helena Okill. Unfortunately Mahan had an unhappy childhood, education and career. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and went on to serve in the U.S. Navy where he continuously tried to get out of sea duty, because he feared the Ocean. Despite his dislike, Mahan served his country for the next 40 year in the Navy, including blockade duty during the Civil War. After the Civil war he taught and eventually became President of the Naval War College in Rhode Island. At the College he taught on naval history and tactics. In 1872 he married Ellen Lyle Evans with whom he had three children. After he left the college he published two books on his teaching and findings in 1890 and 1892. Mahan continued to publish books on his Naval theories up until his death in 1914.

Major achievements:

Mahan's major achievement is his contribution to Naval intelligence. The books that Mahan published were widely used by the allied forces during the First World War. Mahan's insistence that the U.S. should build up its navy and be a dominating force in the Sea continues to be a powerful influence on foreign policy ever since. Mahan published these books: *The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1660-1783*; *The Influence of Sea Power upon the French Revolution and Empire, 1793-1812*; *The Interest of America in*

Sea Power, Present and Future; The Life of Nelson; and The Major Operations of the Navies in the War of American Independence.

For More Information:

The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1660-1783; The Influence of Sea Power upon the French Revolution and Empire, 1793-1812; The Interest of America in Sea Power, Present and Future; The Life of Nelson; and The Major Operations of the Navies in the War of American Independence By Alfred Thayer Mahan; *Inventing Grand Strategy and Teaching Command: The Classic Works of Alfred Thayer Mahan* By Jon Sumida; *Mahan on Sea Power* by William Edmund Livezey

Resources: American National Biography, Encyclopedia Britannica Online