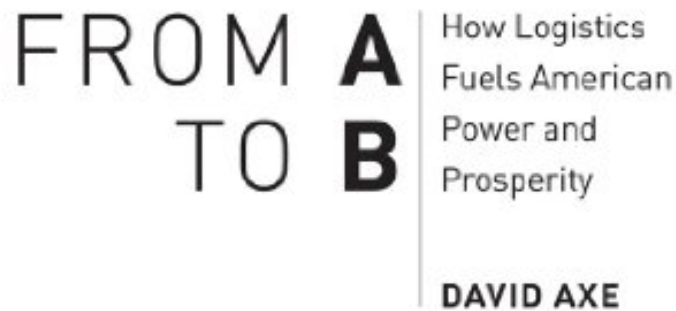


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From A to B: How Logistics Fuels American Power and Prosperity

David Axe

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David Axe : From A to B: How Logistics Fuels American Power and Prosperity before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From A to B: How Logistics Fuels American Power and Prosperity:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Good promise -- poor execution By A. Bert I am a fan of Mr. Axe and his War is Boring blog. Have been following his reporting as a combat arms officer for sometime as I feel he gives an honest view of modern war -- from the sheer terror of combat, to the boring hours in between. When I first read the description of this book I was excited because logistics truly is the lynch pin in the projection of global military

power. Wow -- was I disappointed in the seemingly disjointed and haphazard manner in which this book was presented. Instead of a tight and focused look on the underpinnings and means in which modern logistics operate, the reader is left with a series of seemingly disjointed and disconnected vignettes on the development of robotic cars, to a tangent on how mass transportation will never be effective in the United States. Although I have always enjoyed stories intertwined with real world examples of real people overcoming challenges -- even these sidebars in this book felt forced. My final impression was these were a series of short articles written in the past and sandwiched into a book. Here's to hoping the next effort is a little more flushed out, focused and relevant.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. From A to B by David Axe
By Justin Wolfe
David is an excellent war reporter and keeps a fantastic blog. This is a well written page turner and certainly touches on "How Logistics Fuels American Power and Prosperity" but is really written as a series of rather short blog posts. This book could be 1000 pages long and really get into the nuts and bolts of our logistics processes. Instead, David puts together a series of stories that could be featured on his excellent blog at Danger Room or War is Boring. I was hoping for an expansion on his blog posts and was a little dissatisfied. However, it is a great preliminary insight into our (the USA's) amazing logistics enterprise. Despite its length I would still recommend it to anyone looking for preliminary insight into the backbone of our country.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Axe Branches Out - A Broad Survey of American Logistics
By Raymond Kimball
For those of you who are fans of David Axe's war reporting (like me), get ready for something different. I came into this book expecting to read about military logistics, which is something I've lived and breathed for nigh on a decade now. And while this book has a fair amount of that, it's actually a much broader tour d'horizon of American logistics writ large, how the civilian and military logistics aspects of American society fuel one another, and how both shape and define modern America. Using many of his past writings as a baseline, Axe takes us on a tour of the land, sea and air elements of what's happening now and what's coming next in American logistics. These are, at times, sobering (convoy operations in Iraq in 2004-2005 using makeshift armor and prayer), spellbinding (an at-sea refueling operation that, in and of itself, is worth the price of the book), and infuriating (the carefully canned narrow-view statements of various industry hacks). The glimpses of the future are equally stunning: autonomous cars, vast sea bases, airships, and space marines (I dare you to say that last one aloud without giggling). Flaws? Axe makes clear up front that this is not meant to be an in-depth treatment of the subject, and he's right. Because this is pieced together from lots of his previous work, the transitions between some subjects are pretty tenuous. But I should also make clear that although there are clear outlines of his previous postings from War is Boring and Danger Room, there is a wealth of new material here worth your time. If nothing else, I guarantee that you will never use the term "hybrid car" the same way again.

Logistics includes the planning and practice of moving "stuff"; raw materials, tools, finished products, and even people; from one place to another. It carried American settlers over the sparsely populated Great Plains to connect the East Coast to the West Coast and has underpinned our domestic prosperity ever since. Logistics also solidified the global power and influence of the United States by guaranteeing our ability to rapidly reinforce Europe in the world wars, by helping us win the Cold War, and by enabling the current U.S. military to fight two wars at once. Further, logistics undergirds the world economy as swelling populations vie for shrinking resources, including energy, water, arable land, food, and cheap labor. Natural disasters urgently increase such demand. From A to B is the story of modern American logistics, which will continue to shape the nation's role in this century. The book begins with a U.S. Army transportation company in Iraq during the height of insurgent attacks on American supply networks. Then it tours the shipyards, railways, highways, airports, classrooms, corporate boardrooms, and laboratories that make up our complex and colorful transportation culture. With competition stiffening and our national transportation infrastructure crumbling, we must find ways to move resources and products even more efficiently if we are to thrive. From A to B presents this challenge.

"From A to B is an engaging look at the diverse influences future technologies will have on our ability to move and supply our troops and our economy. Axe continues to entertain and inform; and his closing comment is a clarion call: 'World-beating logistics requires investment on a national scale. That kind of investment requires political will'". -- Cpt. Nathan Finney, Military