Suggested Reading List

Foreign Service Officers must be well-informed and knowledgeable across many disciplines: current world and national affairs, economics, history, public affairs, and management, among others. And, since Foreign Service Officers represent the United States to the world, they must also possess an insightful understanding of American society and culture. This breadth of knowledge is usually gathered gradually over time. The best foundation is a solid education and a personal life-habit of reading, learning, and expanding one’s understanding of the world.

Given this breadth, it is difficult to provide a definitive reading list that will prepare a person for the Foreign Service selection process, and for a Foreign Service career. Nonetheless, the reading list below illustrates the kinds of books and readings that can set you in the right direction.

**Current Affairs**

Periodicals such as U.S. News and World Report, The Economist, Time, The Atlantic, Newsweek, Forbes, The New Yorker

A major daily newspaper such as The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times

Journals such as Foreign Affairs and Foreign Policy, and The New York Review of Books

**English Usage**


**United States (culture, foreign policy, history, politics)**


**World History and Geography**


**Area Studies**


Rubin, Barnett R. *Afghanistan from the Cold War through the War on Terror*. Oxford University Press, 2013. ISBN: 0199791120


**Consular and Immigration**


**Economics and Public Policy**


**Management and Human Behavior**


**Public Affairs and the Media**


**Computer Applications**


**Apps**

DOSCareers Mobile App, Available at the App Store, Google Play