



PRESIDENT OF THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE  
Newport, Rhode Island  
02841-1207

Dear Admiral Zumwalt,

OCT 25 1996

Thank you for your letter recommending Roger Thompson's book *Brown Shoes, Black Shoes and Felt Slippers* for student reading. It is a coherent thesis based on a mix of historical events and current affairs speculation. I would add that I personally find his conclusions to be off the mark. He exaggerates both the extent of inter-community rivalry within the Navy as well as the parochialism of individual CNOs. Most Naval Officers I have spoken with about the article agree that we do a good deal better than Mr. Thompson seems to believe.

In preparation for the 1996-97 academic year, Mr. Thompson's book was included in faculty review of recent publications for possible use in the resident student courses. After careful review, we concluded that the addition of Mr. Thompson's book would have to be at the expense of other publications directly applicable to the core curriculum. Because of the requirements placed on the curriculum by the Joint Staff, and the finite limitations of student time, we determined that Mr. Thompson's book would not be incorporated at this time. As a publication of our Strategic Research Department, however, *Brown Shoes* . . . is immediately available to all students in the Eccles Library and various faculty offices to support student research efforts.

The faculty and I appreciate both your suggestion concerning Mr. Thompson's book and your continued interest in the Naval War College.

Warm regards and  
very respectfully,

J. R. STARK  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy

ADM ELMO R ZUMWALT JR USN (RET)  
1000 WILSON BOULEVARD SUITE 3105  
ARLINGTON VA 22209-3901

Dear J/R

Sounds like a reasonable decision. Thanks for the follow up. Best wishes for continuing success.

Orig mailed 11-4-96

*file!*  
**ROGER THOMPSON, M.A.**  
 Technical Writer



*Z*

To: Admiral Zumwalt	From : Roger Thompson
Fax Number :	Fax Number :
Pages: 1	Voice :
Subject :	

**29 August 1996**

**Dear Admiral Zumwalt;**

**Many thanks for sending me a copy of your letter to Rear Admiral Stark. Your kind words on my behalf are much appreciated. If the Naval War College doesn't wish to republish it, I know someone at the Naval Postgraduate School who might be able to get it published over there. I'll keep you posted, sir.**

**Yours aye,**

**Roger Thompson, M.A.  
 Fellow, Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces & Society**