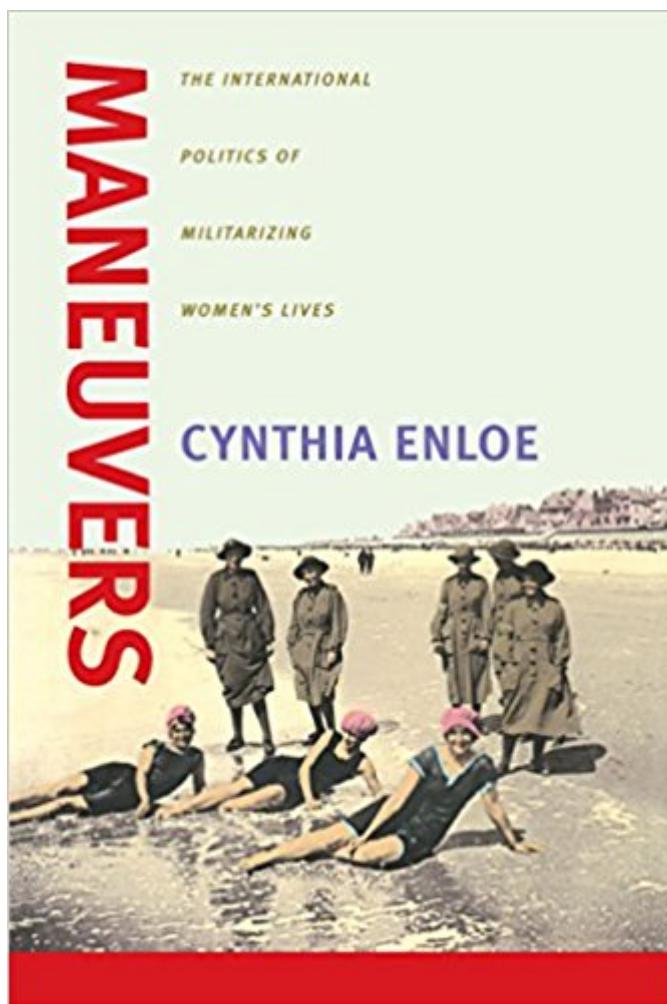


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# Maneuvers: The International Politics Of Militarizing Women's Lives



## Synopsis

Maneuvers takes readers on a global tour of the sprawling process called "militarization." With her incisive verve and moxie, eminent feminist Cynthia Enloe shows that the people who become militarized are not just the obvious ones—executives and factory floor workers who make fighter planes, land mines, and intercontinental missiles. They are also the employees of food companies, toy companies, clothing companies, film studios, stock brokerages, and advertising agencies. Militarization is never gender-neutral, Enloe claims: It is a personal and political transformation that relies on ideas about femininity and masculinity. Films that equate action with war, condoms that are designed with a camouflage pattern, fashions that celebrate brass buttons and epaulettes, tomato soup that contains pasta shaped like Star Wars weapons—all of these contribute to militaristic values that mold our culture in both war and peace. Presenting new and groundbreaking material that builds on Enloe's acclaimed work in *Does Khaki Become You?* and *Bananas, Beaches, and Bases*, *Maneuvers* takes an international look at the politics of masculinity, nationalism, and globalization. Enloe ranges widely from Japan to Korea, Serbia, Kosovo, Rwanda, Britain, Israel, the United States, and many points in between. She covers a broad variety of subjects: gays in the military, the history of "camp followers," the politics of women who have sexually serviced male soldiers, married life in the military, military nurses, and the recruitment of women into the military. One chapter titled "When Soldiers Rape" explores the many facets of the issue in countries such as Chile, the Philippines, Okinawa, Rwanda, and the United States. Enloe outlines the dilemmas feminists around the globe face in trying to craft theories and strategies that support militarized women, locally and internationally, without unwittingly being militarized themselves. She explores the complicated militarized experiences of women as prostitutes, as rape victims, as mothers, as wives, as nurses, and as feminist activists, and she uncovers the "maneuvers" that military officials and their civilian supporters have made in order to ensure that each of these groups of women feel special and separate.

## Book Information

File Size: 6873 KB

Print Length: 442 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0520220714

Publisher: University of California Press; 1 edition (February 1, 2000)

Publication Date: February 1, 2000

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B003BNZJ90

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #562,723 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #17

inÃ  Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Women's Studies > History #99 inÃ  Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender eBooks > Politics #115 inÃ  Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Gender Studies > Women in History

## **Customer Reviews**

Enloe adds to her arrangement of compositions taking a gander at the impacts of militarisation on ladies' lives - from the laundresses, camp devotees, solace ladies and sex specialists to women's activist military faculty and the individuals who battle the home front. Like Jan Jindy Pettman's "Worlding Women - a women's activist global legislative issues", Enloe's most recent book tries to take a gander at universal relations from a gendered point of view - and succeeds outstandingly. The writer depends a great deal on optional sources (refering to a ton of daily paper stories), however weaves together the strands of militarisation on ladies' lives in a convincing and meaningful style. The book is brimming with entrancing stories that delineate the more extensive subjects of the multifacted effect of contemporary militarisation (I especially appreciated the talk on why British military officers from all administrations and US Air Force and Navy officers are permitted to convey umbrellas, however they are fobidden as too girlie for the US Marines and US Army! )Enloe adds to her arrangement of compositions taking a gander at the impacts of militarisation on ladies' lives - from the laundresses, camp devotees, solace ladies and sex specialists to women's activist military faculty and the individuals who battle the home front. Like Jan Jindy Pettman's "Worlding Women - a women's activist global legislative issues", Enloe's most recent book tries to take a gander at universal relations from a gendered point of view - and succeeds outstandingly. The writer depends a great deal on optional sources (refering to a ton of daily paper stories), however weaves together the strands of militarisation on ladies' lives in a convincing and meaningful style. The book is

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This is a great book... one of my favorites. Judging by the other comments, it may be somewhat unpopular to take an antiwar stance when there's plenty of lobbying occurring to get women IN the military. However Enloe addresses this point eloquently when she explains that "feminism" can support the military industrial complex when it is used to support such structures as, well, the military itself.

Great price

Cynthia Enloe adds to her series of writings looking at the effects of militarisation on women's lives - from the laundresses, camp followers, comfort women and sex workers to feminist military personnel and those who fight the home front. Like Jan Jindy Pettman's "Worlding Women - a feminist international politics", Enloe's latest book seeks to look at international relations from a gendered perspective - and succeeds admirably. The author relies a lot on secondary sources (citing a lot of newspaper stories), but weaves together the strands of militarisation on women's lives in a compelling and readable style. The book is full of fascinating anecdotes that illustrate the broader themes of the multifacted impact of contemporary militarisation (I particularly enjoyed the discussion on why British military officers from all services and US Air Force and Navy officers are allowed to carry umbrellas, but they are forbidden as too girlie for the US Marines and US Army! )

Cynthia Enloe is the author most quoted by opponents of women in the armed forces, because she presents the real Feminist viewpoint, which is staunchly anti-war and ambivalent toward the military. Enloe's arguments, supported by N.O.W., are coopted by "anti-feminist" foes of servicewomen as proof of their own contention that women have no place in the military. Paradoxically, after quoting Enloe, those same crusaders then lambast a so-called "feminist lobby" for promoting gender integration in combat operations. No doubt they confuse Feminism with some "politically-correct" positions of Congressional military panels, which are, ironically, often ignored or opposed by N.O.W. But Enloe's books go much further than simply stating Feminism's pacifist ideals. In "Maneuvers", she accuses the military of deliberate victimization of women worldwide. She makes a number of good points concerning the cruelties of war toward civilian women, but her antimilitary bias shows and is sometimes rather venomous. She gives no thought whatsoever to the conditions which make warfare an unpleasant reality and the armed forces a necessity. Nor has she any real concern for American military women or their reasons for wanting to serve. By relating selected incidents of harassment or violence against servicewomen, she presents a negative and mostly false impression of the American military's widespread and willful victimization of its female members. Read "Maneuvers" for the Feminist counter of Brian Mitchell's "Flirting With Disaster", but don't expect balance in the views of either author.

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