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Makers Of Modern Strategy From Machiavelli To The Nuclear Age (Princeton Paperbacks)



Synopsis

The essays in this volume analyze war, its strategic characteristics and its political and social functions, over the past five centuries. The diversity of its themes and the broad perspectives applied to them make the book a work of general history as much as a history of the theory and practice of war from the Renaissance to the present. *Makers of Modern Strategy* from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age takes the first part of its title from an earlier collection of essays, published by Princeton University Press in 1943, which became a classic of historical scholarship. Three essays are repinted from the earlier book; four others have been extensively revised. The rest--twenty-two essays--are new. The subjects addressed range from major theorists and political and military leaders to impersonal forces. Machiavelli, Clausewitz, and Marx and Engels are discussed, as are Napoleon, Churchill, and Mao. Other essays trace the interaction of theory and experience over generations--the evolution of American strategy, for instance, or the emergence of revolutionary war in the modern world. Still others analyze the strategy of particular conflicts--the First and Second World Wars--or the relationship between technology, policy, and war in the nuclear age. Whatever its theme, each essay places the specifics of military thought and action in their political, social, and economic environment. Together the contributors have produced a book that reinterprets and illuminates war, one of the most powerful forces in history and one that cannot be controlled in the future without an understanding of its past.

Book Information

File Size: 3371 KB

Print Length: 950 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press; 1 edition (October 1, 2010)

Publication Date: October 1, 2010

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B009VXTNTG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #88,065 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #31 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > Military Science #60 in Books > History > Military > Weapons & Warfare > Nuclear #69 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > Strategy

Customer Reviews

In my experience, anthologies are always a sort of doing toss with essays being either very good or very bad, due to the fact that its a collection different authors with different ideas and different styles. It's rare to find one where all the essays are great and interesting reads, but this book is one of those. A collection of essays on military history, strategy, and strategies starting with Machiavelli in the 16th century all the way to the end of the Cold War. Every major military leader and thinker in Western history during this time period is there and topics are varied enough so that it is not always Army tactics that are covered. It also includes essays on the Navy and Air power that are fascinating. It even includes a chapter on modern revolutionary wars, or insurgencies as we would call them today, that is not to be missed. And, I have to say, there wasn't one essay that I felt was superfluous or boring., an achievement for an anthology of this size. The only thing that I would say is that, since this was most recently updated in 1986, it does need to add a few new chapters on robotics and cyberwarfare. In spite of its age and length, this was a great read and I highly recommend it to anyone interested in the development of modern, Western military strategy over the centuries.

This is an outstanding comparative analysis of Clausewitz, Sun Tzu and Mao, and is a great companion volume while reading any of these theorists, but especially Clausewitz. Handel clearly illustrates his analysis by using quotes from the works of the major theorists. The most rewarding parts of the book to me were the sections on the importance of politics to the military commander, moral forces in war as found in Clausewitz, and chapter 9: "The Supreme Act of Judgement: Understanding the Nature of War and the Trinitarian Analysis." This is an essential companion and well worth one's time to read in order to achieve a deeper understanding of Clausewitz beyond a few pithy quotes misapplied.

If you want a comprehensive, concise review of the major thinkers of military strategy, this is THE book to purchase. Each chapter provides a quick bio of the thinker, along with an explanation of the strategy. Chapters flow in chronological order, so you can understand how strategy, tactics and

technology developed. Actually an enjoyable book to read, and has become a "ready reference" for me to keep handy.

I purchased this book as it was required for USMC Command and Staff Course, but it is a good resource for anyone who wants a selection of articles and pieces from a wide range of time periods who has an interest in military strategy. The book is divided into eras and within each era there are a number of articles. As a result, it is fairly easy to find what you want without a huge hassle. It doesn't go into extreme detail on any one topic or era, but is a great resource for a general overview and enough of an understanding that you feel pretty good about the topic.

Great background history for Strategy. The term "Machiavellian" is thrown around a lot by people who don't have a clue who Machiavelli was and what he did for his employers. And that's just one topic. There's a lot of context included in this book.

Updated version of the classic. I appreciate the point of view the writers have on the classic works, in modern examples.

Excellent quality. Seller quick to ship.

Excellent item.

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