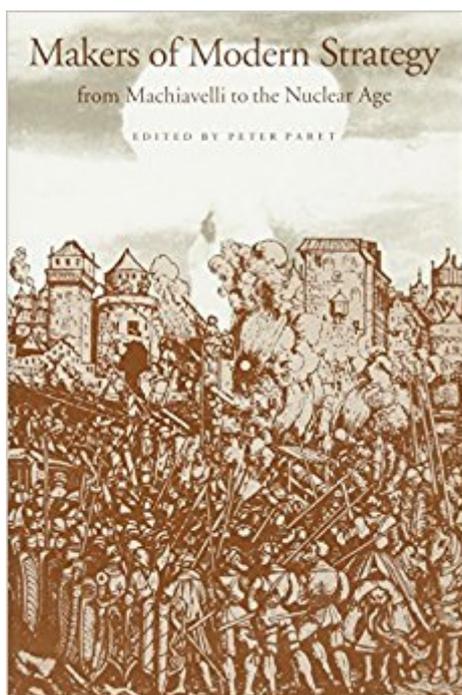


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Makers Of Modern Strategy From Machiavelli To The Nuclear Age



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

Series: Princeton Paperbacks

Paperback: 941 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press; 1 edition (March 1, 1986)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780691027647

ISBN-13: 978-0691027647

ASIN: 0691027641

Product Dimensions: 1.5 x 6.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 45 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #18,823 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Military Sciences #14 in Books > History > Military > Weapons & Warfare > Nuclear #18 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Military

Customer Reviews

Makers of Modern Strategy, first published in 1943, deserved and demanded updating. The 28 essays in the new volume more than in the original range from excellent to outstanding. They reflect the skills of a cross-section of leading military historians. But reviving a classic is a difficult task. Some original contributions were discarded, some rewritten, some left virtually intact. Old and new frequently coexist awkwardly, as when Hajo Holborn and Gunther Rothenberg compete for 19th-century Germany. The editors' reluctance to impose a common format added to an intellectual diffusion most visible in a split between biographic and thematic approaches. As a result, this revision cannot equal its predecessor's status as a standard text. As an anthology, however, the work is brilliantly successful and that is no mean achievement. Recommended for all students of military history. Dennis Showalter, History Dept., Colorado Coll., Colorado Springs Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"[The essays] are authoritative and convincing. Taken together, they demonstrate the complexity of strategy and the importance of it being closely integrated with politics."--New York Times Book Review

In my experience, anthologies are always a sort of toss with essays being either very good or very bad, due to the fact that it's a collection of 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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