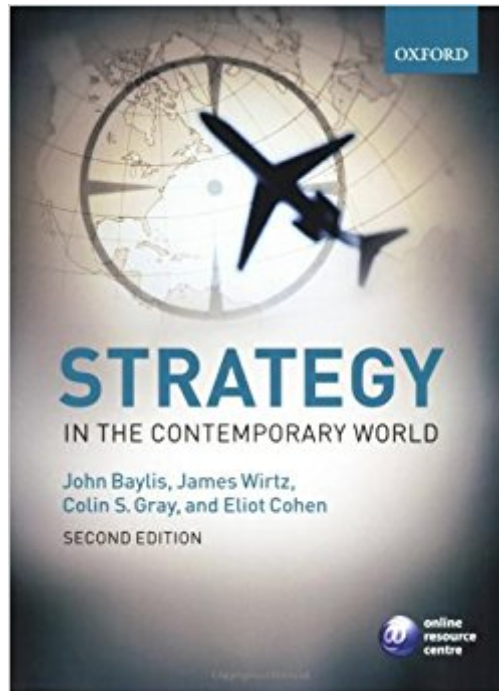


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Strategy In The Contemporary World: An Introduction To Strategic Studies



Synopsis

Completely revised and updated to address changes that have taken place since 9/11, the second edition of this compelling collection takes a sophisticated look at the role of military power in the contemporary world. In this essential resource, the authors analyze recent conflicts from Afghanistan to the Iraq War, considering the ongoing debates on the lessons that can be learned from these wars. In addition, they examine the controversy surrounding the recent revolution in military affairs--a transformation that has been brought about in response to the phenomenal pace of innovation in electronics and computer systems.

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Customer Reviews

Any approach to international relations must include a grounding in strategic studies - which this book undoubtedly offers. Moreover, this book delivers a comprehensive array of distinguished contributors in a style that is both accessible and pleasurable to read. Dr. Gulnur Aybet, University of Kent

John Baylis is Pro-Vice Chancellor and Head of the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Wales, Swansea. James J. Wirtz is Professor of National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California. Eliot Cohen is Professor and Director of the Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies at Johns Hopkins University. Colin S. Gray is Professor of International Politics and Strategic Studies at the University of Reading.

It is good

I read this book as part of my Army War College studies and highly recommend it. a good read!

Exactly the book I needed at a give away price. Shipping was timely and I won't hesitate to order through the same company.

The book is written very well, the organization is easy to follow. For a class textbook this read is pretty interesting.

I liked the product

This introductory textbook of strategic studies covers four main themes: the enduring issues of strategy, the evolution of joint warfare, twentieth-century theories, and contemporary issues of grand strategy. The book is written from the perspective of 'Western security interests', but even so, studying strategy helps us to think clearly about the ways in which states and others use organised force for political ends. The writers all refute technological determinism: new weapons - artillery in World War One, tanks in World War Two, guided missiles in the Arab-Israeli war of 1973, precision bombing and superior ground force technology in the Gulf War - were none of them unbeatable. They show that the basic principles of conducting land warfare have hardly changed in the last hundred years. Armies need to combine their arms, defend in depth, keep large reserves, use cover and concealment, and integrate movement and suppressive fire. In particular, Stephen Biddle shows that, contrary to many claims, the USAF air war in the Gulf did not destroy all the Iraqi armour. Possibly 4,100 armoured vehicles later fought the US ground forces, but they did not fight according to the basic principles, so they were beaten. However, the editors err in dividing what they call '20th-century theories' - deterrence, arms control, terrorism and 'irregular warfare' (national liberation struggles) - from the 'contemporary issues' of technology, weapons of mass destruction, and humanitarian intervention. These are all still live issues. Further, the editors could have presented them in the livelier form of debates. As with any collection of pieces by many hands, the quality is uneven, but generally the better essays are more grounded in the realities of 20th-century military history. The worse ones try to discuss, for instance, the causes of war in terms of biology or psychology. As a rule, strikingly individual expressions of one person's views, like Colin Gray's

Modern Strategy, or Bernard Brodie's War and Politics, provoke more thought than compilation textbooks

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