

Modern Strategy Colin S Gray Article

this book provides a short and accessible introduction to the theory of strategy examines the general theory of strategy in accordance with 23 key principles and explains its nature functions and intended consequences theory of strategy makes the radical argument that the familiar structure of strategy s general theory political ends strategic ways military means and assumptions holds as sound for security at all times and in all places of human necessity strategy is ever varying in its character but not in its nature which is unchanging

strategy and defence planning meeting the challenge of uncertainty explores and examines why and how security communities prepare purposefully for their future defence the author explains that defence planning is the product of interplay among political process historical experience and the logic of strategy the theory of strategy best reveals both the nature and the working of defence planning political ends strategic ways and military means all fed by reigning if not always recognized assumptions organize the subject well with a template that can serve any time place and circumstance the book is designed to help understanding of what can appear to be a forbiddingly complex as well as technical subject a good part of the problem for officials charged with defence planning duties is expressed in the second part of the book s title the real difficulty which rarely is admitted by those tasked with defence planning duty is that defence planning can only be guesswork but because defence preparation is always expensive not untypically is politically unpopular yet obviously can be supremely important claims to knowledge about the truly unknowable persist in truth we cannot do defence planning competently because our ignorance of the future precludes understanding of what our society will be shown by future events to need the challenge faced by the author was to identify ways in which our problems with the inability to know the future in any detail in advance the laws of nature in other words may best be met and mitigated professor gray argues that our understanding of human nature of politics and of strategic history does allow us to make prudent choices in defence planning that hopefully will prove good enough

this book examines the subject of strategy and its relationship with politics despite the fact that strategy is always the product of political process the relationship between the two concepts and their ancillary activities has scarcely been touched by scholars this book corrects that serious deficiency and explains the high relevance of political factors for matters of general defence each chapter aims to show how and why strategy and politics interact and how this interaction has had significant consequences historically neither strategy nor politics can make sense if considered alone strategy requires direction that can only be provided by political process while politics cannot be implemented without strategy in summary this volume will explain what strategy is and is not why strategy is essential what strategy does and how it does it how strategy is made and executed written by a leading scholar and former practitioner this book will be essential reading for all students of military strategy strategic studies security studies and war and conflict studies

the strategy bridge presents and explains the general theory of strategy and demonstrates the relevance of that theory to the real world of practice the author explains what strategy is and how it relates to politics and warfare the book is not about the theory of strategy rather it is that theory

discusses the reasons for soviet american antagonism looks at four alternative policies for u s security and stresses the importance of deemphasizing nuclear weapons

how the wars of the near future will be fought and who will win them many nations peoples and special interest groups believe that violence will advance their cause warfare has changed greatly since the second world war it continued to change during the late 20th century and this process is still accelerating political technological social and religious forces are shaping the future of warfare but most western armed forces have yet to evolve significantly from the cold war era when they trained to resist a conventional invasion by the warsaw pact america is now the only superpower but its dominance is threatened by internal and external factors the world s most hi tech weaponry seems helpless in the face of determined guerrilla fighters not afraid to die for their beliefs professor colin gray has advised governments on both sides of the atlantic and in another bloody century he reveals what sort of conflicts will affect our world in the years to come

this new volume explores the theory and practice of war and peace in modern historical context in fifteen clear and concise chapters this book hits the high and low points of international politics over a two hundred year period plus a brief foray into the future out to 2025 war peace and international relations serves as an excellent introduction to the international history of the past two centuries showing how those two centuries were shaped and reshaped extensively by war this book takes a broad view of what was relevant to the causes courses and consequences of wars this upper level textbook is an invaluable resource for students of strategic studies security studies international relations and international history

strategy and history comprises a selection of professor gray s key contributions to strategic debate over the past thirty years these essays have been selected both because they had significant messages for contemporary controversies and because they have some continuing relevance for today and the future each essay in this book is really about strategy in the modern world and reflects the many dimensions of this complex subject this

book covers a wide range of subjects and historical events but there are key issues covered throughout being strategic the consequences of actions a respect for clausewitz s theory of war historical dependency the importance of geography being critical of enthusiasm for technology over human factors the primacy of politics this important publication provides an invaluable insight into the development of strategic studies over the past 30 years from one of the world s leading theorists and practitioners of the subject the book will be of great interest to all students and analysts of strategy and international studies

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the current process of military transformation will enable the armed forces to do better what they already do superbly well it is important to excel at decisive maneuver and in the application of precise yet overwhelming firepower but those attributes though key in warfare against regular enemies tend to be less valuable in conflict with irregulars in war after war the united states has been surprised by the poor political reward it has earned for its military effort the it led transformation will do nothing to help correct the persisting american difficulty in functioning strategically and politically in its conduct of war the author develops a cumulative seven point argument

modern strategy explains how strategic reasoning makes sense of the great complexity of war on land at sea in the air in space and even cyberspace

gray presents an inventive treatise on the nature of strategy war and peace organized around forty maxims this collection of mini essays will forearm politicians soldiers and the attentive general public against many probably most fallacies that abound in contemporary debates about war peace and security while one can never guarantee strategic success which depends on policy military prowess and the quality of the dialogue between the two a strategic education led by the judgments in these maxims increases the chances that one s errors will be small rather than catastrophic the maxims are grouped according to five clusters war and peace tackles the larger issues of strategic history that drive the demand for the services of

strategic thought and practice strategy presses further into the realm of strategic behavior and serves as a bridge between the political focus of part one and the military concerns that follow in military power and warfare turns to the pragmatic business of military performance operations tactics and logistics part four security and insecurity examines why strategy is important including a discussion of the nature dynamic character and functioning of world politics finally history and the future is meant to help strategists better understand the processes of historical change

perspectives on strategy examines in depth five aspects of strategy strategic thought and behaviour are explored and explained from the perspectives of intellect morality culture geography and technology each perspective has attracted persisting controversy perspectives on strategy is strongly complementary to the author s previous book the strategy bridge theory for practice oup 2010 this new work takes a notably holistic view of strategic phenomena which serves as a master framework within which detailed examination of strategic history and issues can usefully be pursued in the light of particular perspectives foundational for the argument in perspectives on strategy is the proposition that distinctive aspects of strategy e g ethics culture inter alia can only be appreciated properly when they are regarded in context the author shares this view with t e lawrence of arabia who wrote of the whole house of war perspectives on strategy gratefully adapts lawrence and writes about the whole house of strategy the book insists that the nature of strategy is best represented by a venn diagram that shows overlapping perspectives thus the subject of each chapter is shown as having meaning for and in turn is influenced by the subjects of the other chapters for example the book explores the importance of strategic ideas relative to the significance of the material weapons of war the author poses the hardest of questions pertinent to each chosen perspective e g do ideas matter more than muscle in practice how robust is the ethical code with which warfare is waged is geography destiny as some theorists have claimed and do technically superior weapons win wars perspectives on strategy demonstrates that it is possible to look closely at strategic matters from limited but arguably powerful perspectives without being captured by them this book asks and answers the most challenging and rewarding questions that can be posed in order to reveal the persisting universal nature but ever changing character of strategy

the concept of soft power that is the influence attained through the co option of foreigners by the attractiveness of our values ideas and practices understandably has great appeal soft power is much cheaper than the hard power of military force and it is more compatible with the culture of a

principally liberal american society all too often military force seems to fail as an instrument of policy and as a consequence it invites the view that it is becoming obsolescent and even anachronistic dr colin gray subjects hard and soft power to close critical scrutiny and finds that the latter is significantly misunderstood and as a consequence misassessed as a substitute for the threat or use of military force each kind of power has its limitations but the obvious and familiar challenges characteristic of military force do not mean that therefore soft power should be our policy instrument of choice the author warns against expecting too much of soft power

this work analyses the vulnerability of america s land based missile force to a pre emptive soviet strike as an issue in us strategic and political debate it examines why the issue rose to prominence in the way it did in the 1970s and then fell away as a concern in the 1980s without being solved in the way it had been presented it details the way in which the issue was exploited for political and strategic purposes which were often at odds with a concern for this vulnerability

author colin gray maintains that there are distinctive u s and soviet national styles which come into play in each power s nuclear strategic planning and the u s s lack of understanding of the fundamental historical and anthropological factors that make up the soviet national style has led to poor u s policy perhaps no issue is more critical for the u s as nuclear strategy planning this book is a statement to be reckoned with in the surrounding debate co published with abt books

on strategists and strategy exhibits a selection of lawrence freedman s writing from the past ten years illustrating his analytical talent across a broad range of subject areas and providing unique insights into key historical events including the russia ukraine war included are biographical chapters on strategic thinkers and academics who influenced freedman s own development providing more personal insight into some of the key actors who shaped history this curated collection captures some of lawrence freedman s most insightful writing on foreign policy strategy and military history through to current conflicts

understanding contemporary strategy provides an accessible and comprehensive introduction to the theory and practice of modern strategy

covering all the main issues in the field the book explores the major themes through a combination of classical and modern strategic theory history and current practice the book is split into three main sections definition and context including discussion of the human technological intelligence ethical and grand strategic dimensions strategy in the geographic environments land sea air and space contemporary strategic challenges terrorism insurgency and nuclear strategy each chapter presents the reader with a succinct summary of the topic but also provides a challenging analysis of current issues supporting students with pedagogical features such as suggested further reading boxed case studies and study questions this book will be essential reading for upper level students of strategic studies war studies military history and international security

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