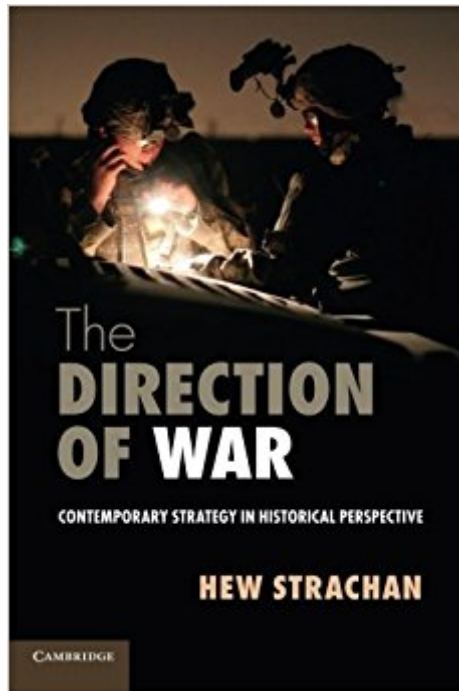


The book was found

The Direction Of War: Contemporary Strategy In Historical Perspective



Synopsis

The wars since 9/11, both in Iraq and Afghanistan, have generated frustration and an increasing sense of failure in the West. Much of the blame has been attributed to poor strategy. In both the United States and the United Kingdom, public enquiries and defence think tanks have detected a lack of consistent direction, of effective communication, and of governmental coordination. In this important book, Sir Hew Strachan, one of the world's leading military historians, reveals how these failures resulted from a fundamental misreading and misapplication of strategy itself. He argues that the wars since 2001 have not in reality been as 'new' as has been widely assumed and that we need to adopt a more historical approach to contemporary strategy in order to identify what is really changing in how we wage war. If war is to fulfil the aims of policy, then we need first to understand war.

Book Information

Paperback: 335 pages

Publisher: Cambridge University Press (January 20, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1107654238

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #111,419 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #108 in [Books > History > Military > Iraq War](#) #219 in [Books > History > Military > Strategy](#)

Customer Reviews

"A very thoughtful, enormously stimulating, and hugely thought-provoking examination of the strategies, concepts, and civil-military relationships that have influenced the character of war in the twenty-first century." General David H. Petraeus, former Commander of United States Central Command and Commanding General of the Multi-National Force - Iraq and the NATO International Security Assistance Force, Afghanistan "Another masterpiece from the foremost military academic of our generation. If you want to understand strategy, just read this book!" General Sir David Richards GCB CBE DSO, former Chief of Defence Staff "Unparalleled in historic depth of argument, a surprising yet seductive view on whether modern war should bend to the demands of politics, or politics to the needs of war." Jan Willem Honig, King's College London "Strachan's historical analyses are a valuable addition to the literature on strategy. He invites the reader to think carefully

about what we think we know and understand about strategy, and, perhaps more significantly, why we understand and think about strategy the way we do today." Terry Terriff, University of Calgary"A valuable book tracing an esteemed scholar's contributions to contemporary strategic thinking." Antulio Echevarria, Strategic Studies Institute, United States Army War College"... extremely well written ..." Jerry Lenaburg, New York Journal of Books"[Strachan's] insistence on Clausewitzian exactitude produces a uniquely incisive assessment of key moments in America's twenty-first-century wars that may be particularly valuable to American leadership as it leaves them behind." Foreign Policy's 'The Best Defense' blog"... offers much good sense." Lawrence D. Freedman, Foreign Affairs

The West's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been seen as strategic failures resulting from a lack of consistent direction, of effective communication, and of governmental coordination. Leading military historian Sir Hew Strachan argues here that these failures resulted from a fundamental misreading and misapplication of strategy itself.

This is a very very useful work for members of the contemporary national security strategy community. While Hew's reputation as a historian is very high, it is his thoughtful and insightful comments that he makes in the latter chapters that lay out some of the critical challenges facing contemporary military and civilian leaders.

I think we need to get to know who our new leaders are going to be. This is one of the books on "Mad Dog"'s reading list. So far it has been very compelling and interesting. Having lived during the Colin Powell years and Bush years as a young impressionable youth to now see what was really going on and the thought behind it.

While not perfect, certainly one of the best works on strategy I've read recently and possibly the best work on post-1945 strategic history I've read in a while. Two main flaws or issues of contention: Strachan's critique of civil-military relations is at times lucid, but at other times appears to come slightly off the rails. Second, the books origin as a (much altered and added too) collection of articles shows through in the many areas which it doubles back on itself covering ground previously well trodden, at times this is done to build on previously mentioned ideas, at other times it seems overly repetitive. On the whole it is an excellent assessment and critique of the recent history of Strategic Studies as a field, as a historian I find many of his disciplinary critiques of the history/IR

balance quite convincing, but I suppose I'm biased.

Thoughtful, balanced, nuanced and sophisticated, this book raises important methodological questions about strategy, history and policy. Though about military strategy, I highly recommend it to anyone who aspires to make strategy in any sphere, and to anyone who wants to understand war and conflict .

Strachan offers a surprising and profound analysis of the direction of contemporary warfare. Highly recommended for scholars and military professionals. I enjoyed it.

I like Strachan, but I have to agree with the other reviewers. The essays can become repetitive, highly theoretical, and somewhat inconsistent. Still, he writes well on important topics, particularly the taxonomy of strategy, policy, and operational art. Recommended.

This is a must have book. It is, beyond a doubt, the best book I have read on military strategy. The author is clear, provides case examples, and more importantly makes this "readable." I retired with 24 years on active duty and spent 15 more working in PMC's working in austere and conflict environments. THIS book is long overdue.

Hew Strachan has used a clear and lucid narrative style to throw light upon the otherwise drab subject of strategy, drawing upon his talent as an historian, contemporising it in the current global environment, and has presented a practical guide to understanding strategic theory and putting it in practice.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Direction of War: Contemporary Strategy in Historical Perspective Draw in Perspective: Step by Step, Learn Easily How to Draw in Perspective (Drawing in Perspective, Perspective Drawing, How to Draw 3D, Drawing 3D, Learn to Draw 3D, Learn to Draw in Perspective) Quisqueya la Bella: Dominican Republic in Historical and Cultural Perspective: Dominican Republic in Historical and Cultural Perspective (Perspectives on Latin America and the Caribbean) British Design & Art Direction 39 w/CD (British Design and Art Direction) British Design & Art Direction 1999 (British Design and Art Direction) World War I - 9 Book Collection: Nelson's History of the War, The Battle of Jutland & The Battle of the Somme: Selected Works from the Acclaimed War Correspondent ... Perspective and Experience During the War World War 2 History - 10 Most Incredible

Women: World War II True Accounts Of Remarkable Women Heroes (WWII history, WW2, War books, world war 2 books, war history, World war 2 women) Historical Dictionary of Ancient and Medieval Nubia (Historical Dictionaries of Ancient Civilizations and Historical Eras) Israel Whence the Gospel Came Forth: Two Historical Maps. 1) The Land of Galilee That Jesus Walked: A Historical Map. 2) The Land of Israel that Jesus Walked. Turmoil and New Beginning. A Historical Map. Science, Strategy and War: The Strategic Theory of John Boyd (Strategy and History) World War 1: Soldier Stories: The Untold Soldier Stories on the Battlefields of WWI (World War I, WWI, World War One, Great War, First World War, Soldier Stories) Civil War: American Civil War in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Confederate States (War Books, Civil War History, Civil War Books) (History in 50 Events Series Book 13) World War 1: World War I in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Central Powers (War Books, World War 1 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series) Frankenstein: Complete, Authoritative Text with Biographical and Historical Contexts, Critical History, and Essays from Five Contemporary Critical Perspectives (Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism) Historical Dictionary of the Dirty Wars (Historical Dictionaries of War, Revolution, and Civil Unrest) The Historical Atlas of World War II (Historical Atlas Series) The Urban Sketching Handbook: Understanding Perspective: Easy Techniques for Mastering Perspective Drawing on Location (Urban Sketching Handbooks) a perspective...ONE FOOT ON A BANANA PEEL: the slippery slope of lung cancer: a perspective...ONE FOOT ON A BANANA PEEL: the slippery slope of lung cancer Framed Perspective Vol. 1: Technical Perspective and Visual Storytelling Perspective Drawing for Kids: A Perspective Drawing Guide for Kids, Including Detailed Explanations and Step By Step Exercises

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)