



The Diffusion of Military Technology and Ideas

From Stanford University Press



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As military forces across the globe adopt new technologies, doctrines, and organizational forms suited to warfare in the information age, defense practitioners and academic specialists are debating the potential consequences of the "revolution in military affairs." The central question of this book is how such revolutions spread, to whom, how quickly, and with what consequences for the global balance of military power. The contributors to this volume—who include historians, political scientists, policy analysts, and sociologists—examine the diffusion of weapons technology, know-how, and methods of conducting military operations over the past two hundred years. The approach reflects the recent reawakening of interest in the relationship between culture and security. The transition from the industrial age to the information age has impacted warfare much as it has other social institutions. Advances in precision weapons, surveillance satellites, robotics, and computer-based information processing, together with organizational changes that network military units, promise to create fundamentally new ways of war; the final outcome of the current revolution is unpredictable—as the North Korean missile program shows—but its global impact will hinge on how the revolution diffuses.

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Editorial Review

Review

"[*The Diffusion of Military Technology and Ideas*] is a notable scholarly achievement with profound implications for national and international security." (*The International History Review*)

"With assiduous attention to the dynamics of diffusion—especially its sensitivity to local contingencies within indigenous cultural settings—this volume succeeds in alerting policy makers to the challenges of advancing (or halting) the spread of technology. It further provides a salutary reminder that 'software'—including robust but flexible habits of mind—is often more critical to military effectiveness than hardware." (William J. Astore, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey *California*)

"The editors have brought together an excellent collection of pieces on the diffusion of military technology." (*Journal of Political and Military Sociology*)

"With its broad and sophisticated approach, this volume brings a more expansive vision and greater theoretical rigor to the study of military diffusion. It also provides a useful framework for policymakers addressing an important but complex issue." (*Technology and Culture*)

"This book offers a rich collection of research papers on very important topics....The authors were carefully chosen experts in history, political science, and sociology, who address the very important factors of national culture as they affect the application of new military technologies." (*Naval War College Review*)

From the Inside Flap

As military forces across the globe adopt new technologies, doctrines, and organizational forms suited to warfare in the information age, defense practitioners and academic specialists are debating the potential consequences of the "revolution in military affairs." The central question of this book is how such revolutions spread, to whom, how quickly, and with what consequences for the global balance of military power. The contributors to this volume—who include historians, political scientists, policy analysts, and sociologists—examine the diffusion of weapons technology, know-how, and methods of conducting military operations over the past two hundred years. The approach reflects the recent reawakening of interest in the relationship between culture and security.

The transition from the industrial age to the information age has impacted warfare much as it has other social institutions. Advances in precision weapons, surveillance satellites, robotics, and computer-based information processing, together with organizational changes that network military units, promise to create fundamentally new ways of war; the final outcome of the current revolution is unpredictable—as the North Korean missile program shows—but its global impact will hinge on how the revolution diffuses.

From the Back Cover

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