



War Amongst the People Critical Assessments

Edited by David Brown, Donette Murray, Malte Riemann, Norma Rossi and Martin A. Smith

RMA Sandhurst has long played a key role in the intellectual development of British Army and international officers. In this book, members of our Academic Faculty bring together a distinguished team of scholars and military practitioners to tackle a key concept which challenges those, military and civilian, who seek to better understand the evolving nature of contemporary conflict and how - or indeed whether - external interventions can improve matters.

*Maj Gen PAE Nanson CBE
General Officer Commanding and Commandant Sandhurst*

...Our Institutions, such as those of government and the armed forces, all developed in the context of Industrial War, the form of war that preceded wars amongst the people. The new circumstances require these institutions to change. In a volume such as this discomfort is good, as it generates debate and leads to change.

General Sir Rupert Smith KCB DSO OBE QGM

About the Book

Recent conflicts have required the armed forces to engage in what has been termed 'war amongst the people'. Such conflicts increasingly require a type of soldier deployed to function as an 'armed social worker', as was seen most recently in operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. If this increased focus on societal relations has – and should – become the area of prime concern for contemporary armed forces, this poses a series of conceptual and practical questions regarding the 'people' concerned and the nature of the society amongst which war is conducted. Scholars and practitioners come together in this volume to explore how armed forces can make sense of such complexity in conceptual terms and how military actors have practically interacted with local power structures and relations, with both positive and negative effects. It examines armed forces' engagement at the local level in a contemporary context and contextualises this within the broader political, strategic, tactical and legal implications this engagement has had at home and overseas.

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Why should I read it?

This book is unique in the literature in that it brings together academics and service personnel to address this paradigm shift in war in a format that is accessible and relevant to military professionals. Authors are leading scholars in this field and military personnel include British infantry and Army Legal as well as a senior Finnish staff officer. Recommended reading by General Sir Rupert Smith author of 'The Utility of Force' in 2005 which first introduced the idea of 'war amongst the people', and Major General Paul Nanson, Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

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