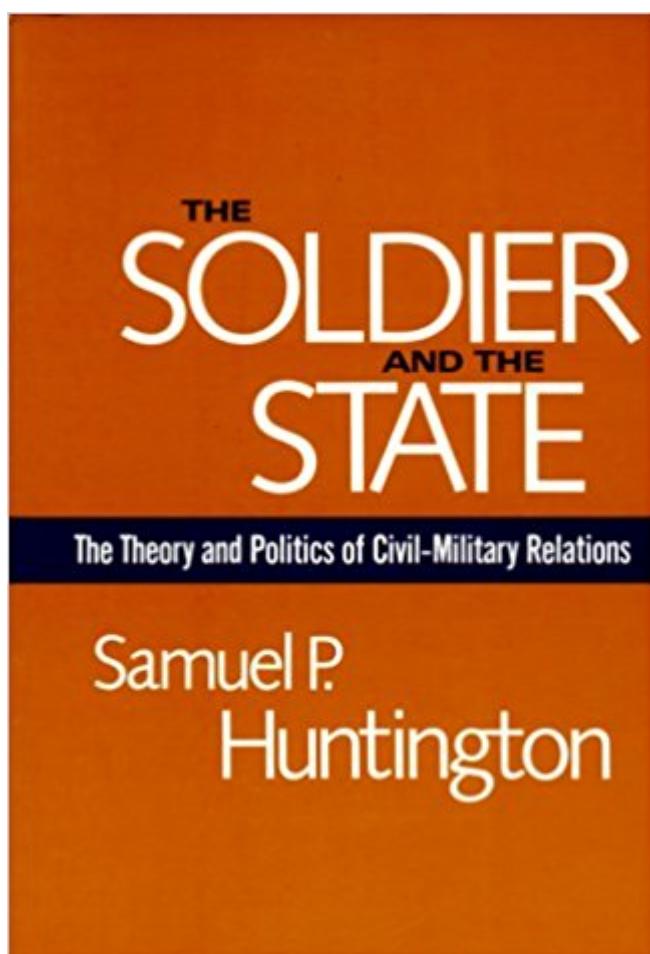


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The Soldier And The State: The Theory And Politics Of Civil-Military Relations (Belknap Press S)



Synopsis

In a classic work, Samuel P. Huntington challenges most of the old assumptions and ideas on the role of the military in society. Stressing the value of the military outlook for American national policy, Huntington has performed the distinctive task of developing a general theory of civil-military relations and subjecting it to rigorous historical analysis.

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Customer Reviews

The problem of civil-military relations is of critical importance in American affairs. Huntington establishes his basic propositions, formulates his theoretical framework, and analyzes historical and contemporary developments in the United States and abroad with skill and insight. The clarity and precision with which the book moves forward make it a delight to read. (Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science) The book contains many insights about both America and its soldiers, and the thought behind many of its conclusions is hard and clean. It also disposes of a number of prejudices about the military that still clog the policy process. Here is a book to make one think. (American Political Science Review)

In a classic work, Samuel P. Huntington challenges most of the old assumptions and ideas on the role of the military in society. Stressing the value of the military outlook for American national policy, Huntington has performed the distinctive task of developing a general theory of civil-military relations and subjecting it to rigorous historical analysis.

Review of: "The Soldier and the State: The Theory and Politics of Civil-Military Relations (Belknap Press)," by Samuel P. Huntington (Author). This is a superb text for the Professional Military Officer. The publisher's synopsis states: "In a classic work, Samuel P. Huntington challenges most of the old assumptions and ideas on the role of the military in society. Stressing the value of the military outlook for American national policy, Huntington has performed the distinctive task of developing a general theory of civil-military relations and subjecting it to rigorous historical analysis." The text is broken down into seventeen chapters to include a comprehensive index and notes. They are enumerated as follows: Part I: Military Institutions and The State: Theoretical and Historical Perspectives. Chapter 1: Officership as a Profession. Chapter 2: The Rise of the Military Profession in Western Society. Chapter 3: The Military Mind: Conservative Realism of the Professional Military Ethic. Chapter 4: Power, Professionalism, and Ideology: Civil-Military Relations in Theory. Chapter 5: Germany and Japan: Civil-Military Relations in Practice. Part II: Military Power in America: The Historical Experience 1789-1940. Chapter 6: The Ideological Constant: The Liberal Society versus Military Professionalism. Chapter 7: The Structural Constant: The Conservative Constitution versus Civilian Control. Chapter 8: The Roots of the American Military Tradition before the Civil War. Chapter 9: The Creation of the American Military Profession. Chapter 10: The Failure of the Neo-Hamiltonian Compromise, 1890-1920. Chapter 11: The Constancy of Interwar Civil-Military Relations. Part III: The Crisis of American Civil-Military Relations, 1940-1955. Chapter 12: World War II: The Alchemy of Power. Chapter 13: Civil-Military Relations in the Postwar Decade. Chapter 14: The Political Roles of the Joint Chiefs. Chapter 15: The Separation of Powers and Cold War Defense. Chapter 16: Departmental Structure of Civil-Military Relations. Chapter 17: Toward a New Equilibrium. Notes. Index. Part of the Author's conclusion sums up the spirit of the text: "Upon Soldiers, the defenders of order, rests a heavy responsibility. The greatest service they can render is to remain true to themselves, to serve with silence and courage in the military way. If they abjure the military spirit, they destroy themselves first and their Nation ultimately. If the civilians permit the soldiers to adhere to the military standard, the nations themselves may eventually find redemption and security in making that standard their own (p. 466)." Well done. Five stars!

For anyone interested in military research, this is a must have ... or must have access to. This book (as well as Janowitz: Professional Soldier) continues to be heavily referenced in the literature. It is definitely a theory based book - not an easy read at times.

Great if you are studying gov/politics.

Considering this is a book published in 1957, my copy was about as good as one could expect with just a few faded pages. Not bad for 58 years old! The content of this book has applicability to today's world just as much as it did back in the '50s. The subject matter is pertinent to all time frames over the last 300 years. An excellent summary of a somewhat complicated subject. These writings also dispel a lot of myths civilian people have concerning the military. I have yet to read a better explanation of this subject in any other source. Brian

Samuel Huntington's writings have always been incisive and animated by a spirit of the author's stupendous labor and a burning desire to project a true perspective of topics. The Soldier and the State is no exception. Every human society and for that matter every human civilization have evolved round this single issue of striking a balance between the civilian and the military sector and hence the debate rages round key political thoughts like liberalism and realism. This age old riddle is difficult to solve and the lone super power of the new millennium is still searching for an answer to this on a national and international level: whither hard power or soft power? Huntington's account of civilian and military history is studded with hard facts and comprehensive research works and this makes the book so interesting. He has picked up a topic that he felt from the core of his heart worth discussing. On a deeper level the issue strikes right into the heart of the American political thought. This is also dealt with in the opening chapter of the undersigned's book : Tracing the Eagle's Orbit. Professor Huntington is an institution by himself and this topic and this book is a must read for everybody. This would magnetically draw the reader to finish the pages of the book with bated breath and is sure to impact the reader's knowledge on political processes since the dawn of human history. Gautam Maitra Author of 'Tracing the Eagle's Orbit: Illuminating Insights into Major US Foreign policies since Independence.'

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