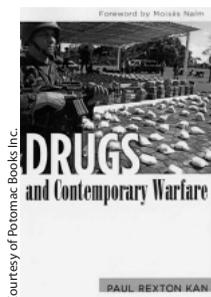


military competition depends upon the possession of those capabilities and how the lack of them forces a search for innovative alternatives, e.g., Anglo-French discussions about combining forces. So to the extent that states possess the requisite capabilities to emulate innovators, they and the innovators can remain major powers. But the converse is equally true as the Anglo-French example cited above suggests. Thus, this theory is also a useful means of analyzing the rise and fall of major powers in the international system. That aspect of the theory's utility adds to the value of this valuable and useful analysis.



Dulles, VA: Potomac Books Inc., 2009

192 pages

\$39.95

## ***Drugs and Contemporary Warfare***

by Paul Rexton Kan

**Reviewed by James J. Carafano**, Deputy Director of The Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies, and Director of the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies

Here is an important book on an important subject. *Drugs and Contemporary Warfare* examines how drug use and trafficking complicate the conduct of modern conflict. With US forces battling poppy growers in Afghanistan; with the Mexican military trying to take back territory from peso-rich and better-armed cartels; and with many parts of the world seeing both trafficking in drugs and the dangers of failed states on the rise—there are few books that would be more helpful in a contemporary soldier's intellectual rucksack.

Paul Kan, an Associate Professor of National Security Studies at the US Army War College, has written a well-organized and comprehensive guide to understanding a complex phenomenon that cuts across social, political, economic, cultural, public health and safety, as well as military fields of competition. The problem is inherently “inter-disciplinary.” In response, that is just the approach Kan takes in his analysis and not surprisingly he finds that a multi-faceted response is most effective in dealing with the challenge. Kan writes, “a multilayered effort from international organizations, major powers, and non-state actors is required to fully address the effects of the drug trade on warfare in today’s world.” It is refreshing to see an analysis of an international security challenge which eschews the “easy button.” Rather than argue for some simple-minded, silver-bullet solution, *Drugs and Contemporary Warfare* admits that this is just a damn difficult problem.

The real utility of *Drugs and Contemporary Warfare* is its fact-filled pages packed with useful insight. There is, for example, a long and useful explanation of the stages of production and distribution for different kinds of drugs, marking the unique qualities of manufacturing and marketing from products like heroin, cocaine, and marijuana to synthetic drugs like amphetamine-type stimulants. The author presents a grim account of how warring groups use drugs for recruiting and retention of child soldiers. Kan details a sobering

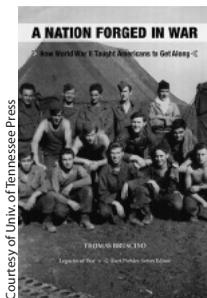
explanation of how high-drug use in combat zones exacerbates undermining public health and safety making the challenge of ending conflicts successfully even more problematic.

In the end, however, the greatest challenge *Drugs and Contemporary Warfare* finds is that drug-money used to further fuel the trade and increase profits is inevitably used to challenge law enforcement, public safety, judicial systems, and even military institutions. "Police are bribed to provide information about upcoming drug raids," Kan writes, "while soldiers are paid not to show up for duty. Prosecutors are bribed not to prosecute and judges not to convict." When the death-spiral is allowed to continue, eventually political stability shatters.

There are, of course, always ways to make a good book better. Kan dabbles with the history of drugs and wars before the contemporary era, but it is a thin history at best. Drugs and war have been sharing foxholes through the annals of warfare. That is probably a story worth telling. Modern phenomena often seem unique, perplexing, and overwhelming simply because we don't know our own past. The use of drugs in battle, for example, is anything but new. During World War II, amphetamine was extensively used to combat fatigue. Soldiers and pilots popped them like candy. We still do not fully understand how they impacted the course of the conflict.

Likewise, today neuropharmacology, how drugs affect cellular function in the nervous system, is often discussed as the next "killer-app," in future warfare with designer drugs that do everything from speeding training to building super-soldier bodies. *Drugs and Contemporary Warfare* could well have gone on to address these future challenges.

Still, as is, it is a fine book. *Drugs and Contemporary Warfare* serves as a useful introduction to the reality of narcotics on the frontline. It deserves the attention of military professionals.



Knoxville, TN: Univ. of Tennessee Press, 2010

360 pages

\$39.95

## ***A Nation Forged In War: How World War II Taught Americans to Get Along***

by Thomas Bruscano

**Reviewed by Dr. Richard Meinhart**, Professor of Defense and Joint Processes, US Army War College

This book's title captured my interest, as I recently had a discussion with my father, who is 90 and a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, about his WWII military experiences. Thomas Bruscano, a history professor at the Army School of Advanced Studies at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, wrote this book, which is the first in a Legacies of War series. Bruscano's main premise, which is aptly supported by relevant statistical data, historical events, and, perhaps even more powerfully, veterans' anecdotes, is that the United States was remarkably changed to be more religious and ethnically tolerant because of veterans' experiences in