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War, Strategy, and Military Effectiveness

This collection of essays represents Professor Williamson Murray's efforts to elucidate the role that history should play in thinking about the present and the future. They reflect three disparate themes in Professor Murray's work: his deep fascination with history and with those who have participated in it; his fascination with the similarities in human behavior between the past and the present; and his belief that the study of military and strategic history can be of real use to those who will confront the daunting problems of war and peace in the twenty-first century. The first group of chapters addresses the relevance of history to an understanding of the present and the possibilities of the future. The second addresses the possible direct uses of history to think through the problems involved in the creation of effective military institutions. The final group of chapters represents historical case studies that illuminate the present.

Williamson Murray is Professor Emeritus of History at The Ohio State University. Currently, he is a defense consultant and commentator on historical and military subjects in Washington, DC. He is co-editor of *The Shaping of Grand Strategy* (with Richard Hart Sinnreich and James Lacey, Cambridge, 2011), *The Making of Peace* (with James Lacey, 2009), *The Past as Prologue* (with Richard Hart Sinnreich, Cambridge, 2006), *The Dynamics of Military Revolution, 1300–2050* (with MacGregor Knox, Cambridge, 2001), *Military Innovation in the Inter-war Period* (with Allan R. Millett, Cambridge, 1996), and *The Making of Strategy* (with Alvin Bernstein and MacGregor Knox, Cambridge, 1994).

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*Dedicated to
Lesley Mary Smith
Beloved wife, valued colleague, critic extraordinaire,
and, above all, friend*

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