Arms and the University  
_Military Presence and the Civic Education of Non-military Students_

Alienation between the U.S. military and society has grown in recent decades. Such alienation is unhealthy, as it threatens both sufficient civilian control of the military and the long-standing ideal of the “citizen-soldier.” Nowhere is this issue more predominant than at many major universities, which began turning their backs on the military during the chaotic years of the Vietnam War. _Arms and the University_ probes various dimensions of this alienation, as well as recent efforts to restore a closer relationship between the military and the university. Through theoretical and empirical analysis, Donald Alexander Downs and Ilia Murtazashvili show how a military presence on campus in the form of the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) (including a case study of ROTC’s return to Columbia and Harvard universities), military history, and national security studies can enhance the civic and liberal education of non-military students, and in the process help to bridge the civil–military gap.

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Frontmatter
More information
To Jen, Leo, Zoe, Susan, Jacqueline, and Alexander; and to the student cadets and veterans who have striven so ably and honorably to foster the citizen-soldier ideal and to bridge the gap between the military, the university, and society
[Lincoln] expressed the new idea in the Gettysburg Address…. He addressed Tocqueville’s worry about the longevity of liberal democratic governments. … But the Civil War raised the question of whether such a government could survive, “testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and dedicated can endure”…

But what gave force to this argument was the occasion and setting of his speech. He delivered his remarks at a battlefield cemetery, dedicating the site. His speech was about death. … He said nothing to suggest that death was good. … He did not think, as Qutb did, that martyrs go on living in some respect, and that death is a garden of delights. He did not find brotherhood in death – did not see his highest aspirations realized in a field of the dead, as the totalitarians of the twentieth century have done, and are still doing. …

But neither did he avert his eyes from death. He spoke about death as “the last full measure of devotion,” which Union soldiers had given. … Death was not their goal; but death was the measure of their commitment. “From these honored dead we take increased devotion,” he said. He was explaining that a liberal society must be, when challenged, a warlike society; or it will not endure.

Paul Berman⁶

Contents

List of Tables  ix
Acknowledgments xi

PART I. A NORMATIVE AND PEDAGOGICAL FRAMEWORK
1 Introduction: The Closing of the University Mind: The Military–University Gap and the Problem of Civic and Liberal Education  3
2 Education in the Regime: How a Military Presence Can Enhance Civic and Liberal Education  40

PART II. ROTC AND THE UNIVERSITY
3 ROTC and the University: An Introduction  77
4 ROTC and the Ivies: Before the Storm  103
5 ROTC and the Ivies: The Divorce  131
6 ROTC, Columbia, and the Ivy League: Sisyphus Renews His Quest to Renew a Troubled Relationship  161
7 Post-DADT: Sisyphus Ascends the Mountain  198
8 Pedagogy and Military Presence: The Educational Influence of Student-Soldiers in Their Own Words  226
9 Winning Hearts and Minds? The Consequences of Military Presence for Non-military Students  256

PART III. MILITARY HISTORY EXAMINED
10 Military History: An Endangered or Protected Species?  283
11 Half Empty or Half Full: Military Historians’ Perspectives on the Status of Military History at the Leading Departments  320
Contents

12 Military Presence in Security Studies: Political Realism (Re)Considered 356

13 Security Studies in the Wake of the Cold War University: Paragons of Productive Friction, or Throwing the Baby out with the Bathwater? 381

PART IV. CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

14 Conclusion: Placing the Military in the University 411

Index 425
Tables

8.1 Cadets’ Reasons for Joining ROTC
8.2 Cadets’ Views on the Importance of ROTC to the Military and University
8.3 Negative Experiences of Cadets
8.4 Positive Experiences of Cadets
8.5 Cadets’ Perceptions of Benefits of ROTC on Campus
8.6 Cadets’ Self-Described Impact on Campus
8.7 Influence of Non-ROTC Students in the ROTC Classroom
9.1 Student Interactions with ROTC
10.1 Military History and National Security in History Departments: A First Take
10.2 Traditional and New Military History in History Departments
10.3 Traditional and New Military History in Political Science Departments
11.1 Faculty in Various Military History Orbits
11.2 Courses in Various Military History Orbits
13.1 Orientation of Security Studies Departments

page 235
237
242
246
248
249
253
258
308
311
317
325
328
385
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