

Why America Loses Wars

How can you achieve victory in war if you don't have a clear idea of your political objectives and a vision of what victory means? In this provocative challenge to US policy and strategy, Donald Stoker argues that America endures endless wars because its leaders no longer know how to *think* about war, particularly limited wars. He reveals how ideas on limited war and war in general evolved against the backdrop of American conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq. These ideas, he shows, were flawed and have undermined America's ability to understand, wage, and win its wars, and to secure peace afterwards. America's leaders have too often taken the nation to war without understanding what they want or valuing victory, leading to the "forever wars" of today. *Why America Loses Wars* dismantles seventy years of misguided thinking and lays the foundations for a new approach to the wars of tomorrow.

Donald Stoker was Professor of Strategy and Policy for the US Naval War College's Monterey Program at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, from 1999 until 2017. The author or editor of eleven books, his *Carl von Clausewitz: His Life and Work* is on the British Army professional-reading list.

Why America Loses Wars

Limited War and US Strategy from
the Korean War to the Present

Donald Stoker



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To Hal Blanton and Mike Jones. Great colleagues. Greater friends.

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