

## THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF WARFARE

### Second Edition

The new edition of *The Cambridge History of Warfare*, written and updated by a team of nine distinguished military historians, examines how war was waged by Western powers across a sweeping timeframe beginning with classical Greece and Rome, moving through the Middle Ages and the early modern period, down to the wars of the twenty-first century in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. The book stresses five essential aspects of the Western way of war: a combination of technology, discipline, and an aggressive military tradition with an extraordinary capacity to respond rapidly to challenges and to use capital rather than manpower to win. Although the focus remains on the West, and on the role of violence in its rise, each chapter also examines the military effectiveness of its adversaries and the regions in which the West's military edge has been – and continues to be – challenged.

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**WARFARE**

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Edited by

**Geoffrey Parker**

The Ohio State University



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
 978-1-316-63276-5 — The Cambridge History of Warfare  
 Geoffrey Parker  
 Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)



**CAMBRIDGE**  
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom  
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India  
 103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

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Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781316632765](http://www.cambridge.org/9781316632765)

DOI: 10.1017/9781316855089

First edition © Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2005

Second edition © Geoffrey Parker 2020

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First published 2005

Revised edition 2009

5th printing 2019

Second edition 2020

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data*

NAMES: Parker, Geoffrey, 1943- editor.

TITLE: The Cambridge History of Warfare / edited by Geoffrey Parker, The Ohio State University.

DESCRIPTION: New edition. | [New York] : Cambridge University Press, [2020] | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2019047456 (print) | LCCN 2019047457 (ebook) | ISBN 9781107181595 (hardback) | ISBN 9781316632765 (paperback) | ISBN 9781316855089 (ebook)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Military art and science--History. | War and society. | War--Economic aspects. | Civilization, Western.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC U27 .C26 2020 (print) | LCC U27 (ebook) | DDC 355.009--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019047456>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019047457>

ISBN 978-1-107-18159-5 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-316-63276-5 Paperback

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## Preface

The origins of this book lie in the vision, advice, and acumen of Peter Richards, who died of cancer in 2009, aged fifty-eight. Peter invited me to edit a volume on warfare in a series of Illustrated Histories that he was developing for Cambridge University Press, and in 1993 he attended (and funded) a meeting of the contributors at which we thrashed out the overall framework of the volume and the common denominators for our chapters. The result was *The Cambridge Illustrated History of Warfare: The Triumph of the West*, first published in 1995. A decade later, Eric Crahan of Cambridge University Press proposed a new edition that extended the original text, which ended with the Gulf War of 1991, down to 2008; and the simultaneous preparation of a parallel volume that omitted the illustrations, though retaining the maps. They appeared in 2009. Deborah Gershenowitz and Nicola Chapman have co-ordinated production of the present revised volume, which takes the story down to March 2019. The contributors and I are very grateful to these four fine editors for their enthusiasm, encouragement, and hard work.

The approach adopted in this volume lays its authors open to the charge of *Eurocentrism*. We offer three defences. First, it would be impossible to provide adequate coverage in a single volume of the military history of all major cultures (some of them, like the Chinese way of war, stretching back even further than that of Europe). Second, merely to pay lip service to the military and naval traditions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas, while devoting the lion's share of the attention to the West, would be unpardonable distortion. Finally, as explained in the Introduction, for good or ill, the Western way of war has become dominant all over the world.

## Preface

In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, remarkably few states and cultures managed to resist Western arms for long – and the few that did so usually succeeded by imitation or adaptation. The rise and development of this dominant tradition, together with the secret of its success, therefore seem worthy of examination and analysis.

All dates are given according to the Gregorian calendar, even for European countries like Sweden and Russia that only abandoned the Julian calendar later. Dates from the Chinese, Islamic, Japanese, and Jewish systems of reckoning time have also been converted to the Gregorian calendar. Where recognized English versions of foreign place names exist, they have been used (thus Brussels, Moscow, and Vienna); otherwise today's style has been preferred (thus Bratislava rather than Pressburg or Pozsony; Lviv and not Lwów or Lemberg). Likewise, with personal names, where an established English usage exists, it has been adopted (Gustavus Adolphus, Philip IV). In other cases, the style and title employed by the person concerned are preferred. Pinyin romanization has been used for Chinese, except when quoting from a work that used Wade-Giles; and the family name has been given first for Japanese and Chinese persons, past and present.

The editor has accumulated many debts of gratitude. Since all the contributors to this volume wrote their original drafts at the same time, they subsequently undertook a substantial amount of revising and rewriting to ensure that each chapter complemented, but did not duplicate, the others. First and foremost, therefore, I wish to thank my co-authors, who graciously accepted more editorial interference than any scholar should have to suffer, and also provided me with invaluable help and encouragement. I also thank Jon Sumida for some excellent advice at an early stage, and Leif Torkelsen for vital assistance in preparing this edition for the press.

The contributors and I also thank those who have offered suggestions and references along the way – especially Michael Howard and Donald Kagan, who read the first draft of the work and provided important suggestions for improvement. The intellectual debts of individual contributors appear in the list of contributors.

The authors respectfully dedicate this volume to Michael Howard and William H. McNeill, who set the standard to which we aspire.

Geoffrey Parker  
*Columbus, Ohio, Memorial Day, 2019*