

# NEW WEAPONS OLD POLITICS



AMERICA'S MILITARY  
PROCUREMENT MUDDLE  
THOMAS L. MCNAUGHER

# New Weapons Old Politics Americas Military Procurement Muddle

**Carnegie Corporation of New York**

## **New Weapons Old Politics Americas Military Procurement Muddle:**

*New Weapons, Old Politics* Thomas L. McNaugher, 2011-10-01 Americans spend more than 100 billion a year to buy weapons but no one likes the process that brings these weapons into existence The problem McNaugher shows is that the technical needs of engineers and military planners clash sharply with the political demands of Congress McNaugher examines weapons procurement since World War II and shows how repeated efforts to improve weapons acquisition have instead increased the harmful intrusion of political pressures into that technical development and procurement process Today's weapons are more complicated than their predecessors So are the nation's military forces The design of new systems and their integration into the force structure demand more care time and flexibility Yet time and flexibility are precisely what political pressures remove from the acquisitions process In a series of case studies and conceptual discussions McNaugher tackles concerns at the heart of the debate about acquisition the slow and heavily bureaucratic approach to development the preference for ultimate weapons over well organized and trained forces and the counterproductive incentives facing the nation's defense firms He calls for changes that run against the current fashion less centralization or procurement less haste in developing new weapons and greater use of competition as a means of removing the development process from political oversight Above all McNaugher shows how the United States tries to buy research and development on the cheap and how costly this has been The nation can improve its acquisition process he concludes only when it recognizes the need to pay for the full exploration of new technology    Review of Current Military Literature ,1990    Military Review ,1990    Weapon of Choice Matthew Ford, 2017-02-15 This book examines Western military technological innovation through the lens of developments in small arms during the twentieth century These weapons have existed for centuries appear to have matured only incrementally and might seem unlikely technologies for investigating the trajectory of military technical change Their relative simplicity however makes it easy to use them to map patterns of innovation within the military industrial complex Advanced technologies may have captured the military imagination offering the possibility of clean and decisive outcomes but it is the low technologies of the infantryman that can help us develop an appreciation for the dynamics of military technical change Tracing the path of innovation from battlefield to back office and from industry to alliance partner Ford develops insights into the way that small arms are socially constructed He thereby exposes the mechanics of power across the military industrial complex This in turn reveals that shifting power relations between soldiers and scientists bureaucrats and engineers have allowed the private sector to exploit infantry status anxiety and shape soldier weapon preferences Ford's analysis allows us to draw wider conclusions about how military innovation works and what social factors frame Western military purchasing policy from small arms to more sophisticated and expensive weapons    Journal of the United Service Institution of India United Service Institution of India, 1990    Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review ,1996    The New York Times Book Review ,1989-07    **Improving Military Coordination** Thomas L. McNaugher, 1994    Beyond Distrust

National Academy of Public Administration. Panel on Congress and the Executive,1992      *Annual Report - Carnegie Corporation of New York* Carnegie Corporation of New York,1990      **Reinventing the Pentagon** Fred Thompson,L. R. Jones,1994-08-08 If defense spending is to be reduced without enfeebling the military the Pentagon must make major changes in the way it does business it must restructure decentralize and trim away the fat      **Contemporary Arab Thought** Ibrahim M. Abu-Rabi,2004 Leading scholars discuss ideology and hotly contested post structuralist theory  
Making Peace Pay Nils Petter Gleditsch,2000      **The Publishers Weekly** ,1988      **Report of the President, the Secretary & the Treasurer** Carnegie Corporation of New York,1987      **New York University Journal of International Law & Politics** New York University. International Law Society,1991      *Journal of Economic Literature* ,1993      *The Development of the Advanced Medium-range Air-to-air Missile* Kenneth R. Mayer,1993 In this case study of the AMRAAM program Mayer examines weapons acquisition as a political process involving the perceptions and goals of many organizations Technologically the missile is a success despite a development program that involved major schedule slips substantial cost growth and several major redesign efforts Mayer concludes that external oversight can be counterproductive as it raises the likelihood that the system must respond to forces having little to do with performance or management For example overselling the program at the beginning can lead to serious difficulties when the inevitable technical problems make system performance and management look poor in relation to the original promises In addition formal structures and procedures designed to reduce uncertainty cannot be relied on to counter optimistic estimates of performance schedule or cost Finally he concludes that concurrent development programs and fixed price contracts are inappropriate for technically risky programs      *Political Science Quarterly* Columbia University. Faculty of Political Science,1931 A review devoted to the historical statistical and comparative study of politics economics and public law      **Publishers Trade List Annual, 1996, 1** R R Bowker Publishing,Trade List Annual 199 Publishers',1996-09

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