



Warmaking and American Democracy

By Michael D. Pearlman

University Press of Kansas. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 456 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.4in. x 1.2in. While war is most effectively waged as a united effort, the United States has consistently waged military conflict without firm central direction. Throughout our history, observes Michael Pearlman, the waging of war has been subject to continuous bargaining and compromise among competing governmental and military factions. What passes for strategy emerged from this process. Warmaking and American Democracy is the first comprehensive study of American war strategy in its domestic context. It shows how internal divisions between political parties, presidents and Congress, elected representatives and bureaucrats, soldiers and civilians, and branches of the armed services make the creation of strategy extraordinarily complex and explains why wartime goals, ways, and means were often disconnected. Pearlman reveals how divided America has always been over warmaking, from colonial times to Desert Storm. Drawing on a wide array of sources in political, military, and diplomatic history as well as interviews with leading figures in the defense establishment, the book illuminates the strengths and weaknesses of our convoluted decision-making process. His examples of wartime success and failure explain many of the perpetual dysfunctions when a pluralist democracy makes high-level strategy. Exploring many previously neglected...



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