

SDSU'S CENTER FOR MILITARY HISTORY INAUGURAL LECTURE

The American Way of War:



A Retrospective



For three decades the term “American Way of War” was largely restricted to academic discussion of Professor Russell F. Weigley’s 1973 history of military strategy. In the late 1990s it suddenly emerged as a catch-all phrase in the defense analysis community among those seeking to transform the nation’s military forces. Advocates claimed that new technologies and doctrines allowed a “New American Way of War” that would be rapid, decisive, and almost bloodless. This revolutionary ‘way’ of war would not only ensure U.S. military supremacy, but could spread American values and institutions across the globe. To some, the “New American Way of War” underlay the American military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The approaching half-century anniversary of the publication of *The American Way of War* provides an opportunity to reflect on its impact. Does Weigley’s thesis still provide a means to understand national military strategy? How did an academic’s thesis on national strategy become so politicized? Is there an American Way of War?

WEDNESDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2019, 7:00-8:30PM in AL-102



Brian McAllister Linn is Professor of History and Ralph R. Thomas Professor in Liberal Arts at Texas A&M University. He is the author of *Elvis’s Army: Cold War GI’s and the Atomic Battlefield* (Harvard, 2016); *The Echo of Battle: The Army’s Way of War* (Harvard, 2007); *The Philippine War, 1899-1902* (Kansas, 2000); *Guardians of Empire: The U.S. Army and the Pacific, 1902-1940* (North Carolina, 1997); and *The U.S. Army and Counterinsurgency in the Philippine War, 1899-1902* (North Carolina, 1989). He is the recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, and an Olin Fellowship at Yale University. He has been a visiting professor at the Army War College and a Fulbright Fellow at the National University of Singapore and the University of Birmingham. He is the past president of the Society for Military History.

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