



# American Military Technology: The Life Story of a Technology

By Barton C. Hacker, Margaret Vining

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The growth of American engineering and science has affected military technology, organization, and practice from the colonial era to the present day?even as military concerns have influenced, and often funded, domestic engineering programs and scientific development. *American Military Technology* traces the interplay of technology and science with the armed forces of the United States in terms of what Hacker and Vining view as epochs: 1840–1865, the introduction of modern small arms, steam power, and technology, science, and medicine; 1900–1914, the naval arms race, torpedoes and submarines, and the signal corps and the airplane; and 1965–1971, McNamara's Pentagon, technology in Vietnam, guided missiles, and smart bombs.

The book is an excellent springboard for understanding the complex relationship of science, technology, and war in American history.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

An attractive primer that should prove useful to readers looking for a straightforward and jargon-free introduction to the complex relationship existing between the American military and its tools (and toolmakers) of war.

(*Journal of Military History*)

The broad coverage and integrative approach of this survey, combined with its attractive packaging and price, will make it a useful text for introductory courses in U.S. military history and the history of technology.

(Robert G. Angevine *Journal of Military History*)

Definitely offers worthwhile reading for a broader perspective on military procurement, operations, and thinking.

(Col. Brett Morris *Air Power History*)

#### About the Author

**Barton C. Hacker** is the curator of military history at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. He has received the Leonardo da Vinci Medal of the Society for the History of Technology and several writing prizes. He has curated major military and naval exhibits at the Smithsonian. **Margaret Vining** is the curatorial specialist in military history at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. She is also secretary-general of the U.S. Commission on Military History. She has curated or co-curated major exhibits on the G.I. in World War II, submarines in the Cold War, and West Point in the making of America.

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