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Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; I: Analyzing Warfare; 1 Why Study Military Matters?; 2 Eros and Mars: The Nature of Humankind; or, Making Love and War; 3 The Search for Fundamental Truths about War; 4 Geopolitics and the Long Shadow of Geography; 5 The Template of Mars; Superior Weapons and Technological Entrepreneurship; Superior Discipline; Sustained but Controlled Ruthlessness; Receptivity to Military and Integrative Innovation; The Ability and Willingness to Protect Capital from People and Rulers; The Centrality of Superior Will; The Belief That There Will Always Be Another War 6 The Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb or, Hiroshima as Seen through the Lens of Mars; 7 Mars Is a Jealous God, Part 1; 8 Is the Template Obsolete in the Face of Insurgencies?; Theoreticians and Practitioners; Overviews of Insurgency; Some Illustrative Case Studies: Showing the Experience of Insurgency and Counterinsurgency across Cross-Cultural Lines; 9 The American "Empire" and the Dangers That Lie Ahead; The Empire as Empire (or Hegemon); The Nuclear Dimension; China; Failed and Fragile States; Islamic Radical Salafists and Local and Global Insurgencies Afghanistan: Watch on the Danube ReduxII: Topics in War; 10 Early Warfare; 11 Classical Infantry; 12 Classical Infantry; 13 The Horsemen

Cometh; Part I: The Mounted Horsemen of the Steppes; Part II: European Heavy Horse: Feudalism and Knighthood, Power Diffusion and Its Consequences, and Later Power Centralization; Part III: Byzantium; Part IV: African Heavy Horse: Power Centralization and Power Diffusion; Part V: Arab Light(er) Horse: Flow and Ebb, Ebb and Flow; Part VI: Japanese and Chinese Horsemen; Part VII: Parthian and Sassanian Horsemen  
Part VIII: Mongol and Later Turkic Asian HorsemenPart IX: Indian and South Asian Horsemen; 14 The Vikings; 15 The Gunpowder and Discipline Revolution and the Expansion of the Gunpowder Empires; 16 Era of the European Great Captains; Maurice of Nassau (1567-1625); Gustavus Adolphus (1594-1632); The Duke of Marlborough (1650-1722); Charles XII (1682-1718); Louis XIV (1638-1715); Frederick the Great (1712-1786); 17 Warfare on the Periphery and the Expansion of the European Gunpowder Empires; 18 Revolution and Civil War; 19 The Real United States Is Born; American Military History (General) War of 1812The Mexican War; 20 Further Democratization of War; 21 The American Civil War; 22 Civil Wars in Perspective; Some Illustrative Examples; 23 Precursors to 20th-Century War; 24 World War I; 25 Transition within the Continuum; 26 The Battle of Nomonhan/Khalkin Gol; 27 The Triumph of the Offense; ; 28 World War II; 29 The Cold War and Nuclear Weapons, 1946-1992; 30 The Korean War; or, The Forgotten War of Great Irony; 31 Vietnam; 32 Mars Is a Jealous God, Part II; Afghanistan I and II; Iraq Wars II and III; 33 Weapons in War; 34 Logistics in War; 35 The Daughters of Mars  
36 Homosexuality and Warfare

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#### Sommario/riassunto

Understanding War divides war material into eighteen overarching themes of analysis and fifty seminal topics. In the process, it gives the reader access to the broadest possible array of material across both time and space, beginning with the earliest forms of warfare and concluding with the contemporary situation.

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