

[New Book: The Military and the Market, Edited by Jennifer Mittelstadt and Mark R. Wilson](#)

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[The Military and the Market](#)

Edited by Jennifer Mittelstadt and Mark R. Wilson

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Throughout its history, the U.S. military has worked in close connection to market-based institutions and structures. It has run systems of free and unfree labor, taken over private sector firms, and both spurred and snuffed out economic development. It has created new markets—for consumer products, for sex work, and for new technologies. It has operated as a regulator of industries and firms and an arbitrator of labor practices. And in recent decades it has gone so far as to refashion itself from the inside, so as to become more similar to a for-profit corporation.

The Military and the Market covers two centuries of history of the U.S. military's vast and varied economic operations, including its often tense relationships with capitalist markets. Collecting new scholarship at the intersection of the fields of military history, business history, policy history, and the history of capitalism, the nine chapters feature important new research on subjects ranging from Civil War soldier-entrepreneurs, to the business of the construction of housing and overseas bases for the Cold War, to the U.S. military's troubled relationships with markets for sex. The volume enriches scholars' understandings of the depth and complexity of military-market relations in U.S. history and offers today's military policymakers novel insights about the origins of current arrangements and how they might be reimaged.

Contributors: Jessica L. Adler, Timothy Barker, Patrick Chung, Gretchen Heefner, Jennifer Mittelstadt, A. Junn Murphy, Kara Dixon Vuic, Sarah Jones Weicksel, Mark R. Wilson, Daniel Wirls.

Interviews with the editors are available through two different podcast shows:

War Room, by U.S Army War College
-> <https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/podcasts/military-market/>

New Books Network's channel on Military History
-> <https://newbooksnetwork.com/the-military-and-the-market>