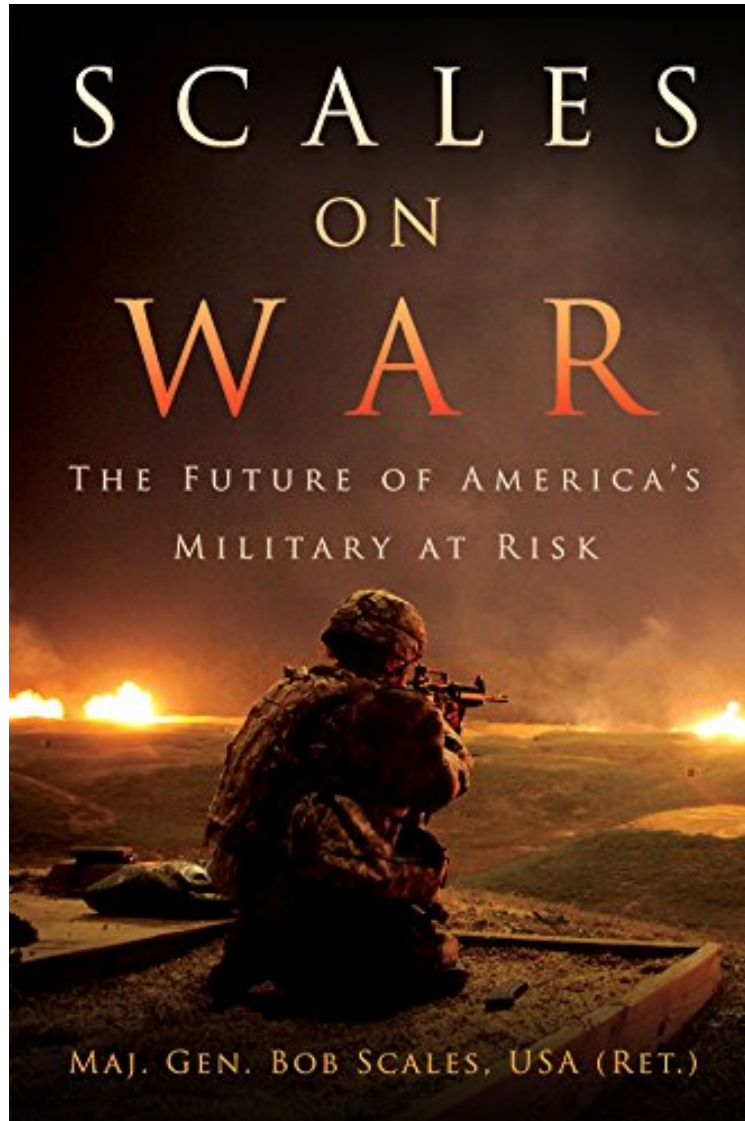


(Free download) Scales on War: The Future of America's Military at Risk

Scales on War: The Future of America's Military at Risk

Maj. Gen. Bob Scales USA (Ret.)

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Maj. Gen. Bob Scales USA (Ret.) : Scales on War: The Future of America's Military at Risk before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Scales on War: The Future of America's Military at Risk:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great Book for the Army Professional.By Thomas M. MageeThis was a very interesting book. I hope everyone reads this. It will be a must read for any defense professional. The book is a listing of various ideas from MG Bob Scales. These ideas were very eye opening. They will get the neurons firing

for any reader. MG Scales does a good job of pointing out American historical shortfalls. Those shortfalls were in the area of infantry. The historical step children of the US Army. He then goes and explains how warfare has changed over the last 20 years. Our investment in the billion and trillion dollar weapon systems might not be the best tool to meet these threats. He does talk about how some new weapon systems like in the artillery to meet these threats were shelved due to political correctness. The answer to meeting the new threats is people, and specifically people in the infantry. I liked his ideas on training. I am not sure how workable it is for today's intense tempo army but they are great. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Grunts are expendable, apparently. By Charles A. Krohn Scales is angry. I'm angrier. Why the infantry (Marine and Army) get to suck hind tit for the dubious privilege of fighting in the mud and slime while DoD focuses on super-expensive toys that add little or nothing the battlefield where the close fight takes place is beyond me. Winning wars should be more than luck and bravado. But that's how we've elected fight lately, right? Message to infantry soldiers, Marines and Spec Ops guys: Get him before he guts you. Public opinion be damned; the world's a very dangerous place, especially in the close fight. 14 of 16 people found the following review helpful. poor narrative control By Robert Hannah Scales presents a realistic picture of where our ground forces stand today. Riddled with depleting resources, poor narrative control, a shrinking budget, and Reagan era equipment our ground forces no longer have the best equipment and training they need to succeed on tomorrow's battlefield. Scales holds nothing back in this book when ridiculing past and present leadership for continuously ignoring the evident needs of the Army. He does however find time to praise some noteworthy leaders who have made positive impacts on the military institution. He makes it quite clear and delivers one of the best arguments for a resurgence of ground force investment. A he repeatedly marks on throughout the middle chapters of the book is the low numbers in which our air force and navy personnel die in combat and yet those are the branches continue to receive most of the funding and most of the updated and new equipment! Our ground forces and close quarter warriors are at a drastic disadvantage when it comes to chances of death in war. For a country so averse to dead Soldiers you'd think our military would allocate more funding to keeping them alive. Better rifles, drones, communication equipment, leadership, body armor, armored vehicles, platoon and squad level transportation vehicles are all things he touches on in this book. While only a cadet set to commission this Spring, I find myself hoping that by the time I take to the field our leadership will have already begun financing better means in which to keep our future soldiers alive.

Scales on War is a collection of ideas, concepts, and observations about contemporary war taken from over thirty years of research, writing, and personal experience by retired Major General Bob Scales. Scales' unique style of writing utilizes contemporary military history, current events, and his philosophy of ground warfare to create a very personal and expansive view of the future direction of American defense policies. Each chapter in the book addresses a distinct topic facing the upcoming prospects of America's military, including tactical ground warfare, future gazing, the draft, and the role of women in the infantry. Fusing all of these topics together is Scales' belief that, throughout its history, the United States has favored a technological approach to fighting its wars and has neglected its ground forces. Scales on War shows that, as a result of America's focus on winning wars with technology rather than people, America's enemies have learned how to win battles by defeating such technology. As a well-known warfare expert, Scales demonstrates how only a resurgent land force of Army and Marine small units will restore America's fighting competence.

"If we wish to be ready for the next war, two questions follow: whether we can improve our ability to predict the conflict and how we might better prepare our forces to win no matter what. In his latest book...Scales takes up both questions, and, with iconoclastic fervor, tears down the business-as-usual answers to each." – Center for International Maritime Security (CIMSEC) "This is a very good, thought-provoking read" – The Journal of America's Military Past "Before completing the next three sentences, stop what you're doing. Go online and purchase Scales On War: The Future of America's Military at Risk? an inevitable classic. Your MOS doesn't matter. Neither does your rank. If you're a Marine at heart? and subsequently believe that our Corps' foundation is built around our infantry units? read retired U.S. Army MG Robert H. Scales' new book as soon as possible. Go to a quiet place, get ready to take detailed notes, and commit to taking a hard, introspective look at ourselves courtesy of the man whom Gen James N. Mattis, USMC (Ret) considers our Nation's top warrior-scholar. His book provides our Corps an opportunity to critically look at ourselves, our priorities, and, most importantly, our close combat formation's true capabilities. Scales is spot-on in highlighting existing deficiencies, as well as in providing specific actions to take to eliminate them. Over the past 15 years of combat, the Marines who serve in these units have done their very best? and performed extremely well? in spite of not being the forefront of institutional prioritization and focus. Ideally, thousands of Marines very closely reading, thinking about, and discussing Scales On War will finally provide the long overdue catalyst required to get our Corps' priorities back in order."? Marine Corps Gazette "Combining his combat experience with a life-long study of men in direct combat, Bob Scales has written a classic. In this eye-opening and authentic work, he articulates a provocative yet sensible way for our nation to overcome its institutional neglect of the infantry. Let's apply now the wisdom of our top warrior-scholar who has demonstrated again his penetrating understanding of combat at the point of

maximum danger.” Gen. James N. Mattis, USMC (Ret.), Commander, United States Central Command (2010-13), Commander, U.S. Joint Forces Command and Supreme Allied Commander Transformation for NATO (2007-10) “Enormously compelling, stimulating, thoughtful and thought-provoking reflections by one of America’s foremost practitioners of scholars on contemporary soldiering and the American military. A brilliant intellectual capstone to General Scales’ decades of seminal contributions to the most important defense debates of the day.” Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, (Ret.), Commander, Multinational Force-Iraq (2007-2008); and International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan (2010-2011) “Two decades ago, Bob Scales revolutionized how the United States thought about combat as Commandant of the Army War College. In the years since he has continued to write, teach, and learn. In *Scales on War*, he collects the lessons from a lifetime of thinking about man’s most horrible endeavor. Those who read it will be better prepared to keep America strong, safe, and free.” Lt. Col. John Nagl, USA (Ret.), author of *Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife: Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam* and *Knife Fights: A Memoir of Modern War in Theory and Practice* “General Bob Scales’ book sizzles with insights on how to improve America’s warfighting effectiveness. He sees it from the ground, through soldiers’ eyes, gained through fifty years of direct experience, close study, and thoughtful analysis. This is a book for both today’s warriors and the policymakers and planners who back them up.” Gen. Wesley K. Clark, USA (Ret.), NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander Europe (1997-2000) and author of *Waging Modern War: Bosnia, Kosovo and the Future of Combat* “Readers will appreciate Robert Scales’ candid conversational style, mercifully free of military jargon or the usual defense policy platitudes. Gen. Scales may even surprise some readers as he casually debunks forecasts of imminent combat with the usual cast of suspects: Russia, China, North Korea or even Iran. But it is always the wars no one predicted that suddenly appear. They represent the greatest threats to American interests and thus to the ‘poor, bloody infantry’ we typically dispatch to set things right. While his book is well-researched, Gen. Scales is his own best source. He presents American readers with a compendium of expert advice, the peerless result of a lifetime spent studying war and its demands on a free society.” *The Washington Times* “Bob Scales has dedicated his life to helping young Americans win our wars. He understands that fighting and bureaucracy seldom work together. His commitment is to the fighter. The next cycle of leadership should read this book and implement its wisdom.” Newt Gingrich, 50th Speaker of the United States House of Representatives “You couldn’t ask for a more eloquent spokesman for investing fully in America’s overworked, underloved, close-combat contingents: tough Army and Marine infantry; our superb special operations forces; and their immediate running buddies, the medics, the forward observers, and the rest of those at the very tip of the spear. In *Scales on War*, the author marshals his considerable talents as a veteran combat soldier, gifted writer and incisive thinker to advance the case. To his credit, Scales also offers answers. His book provides a way ahead for a renaissance of U.S. Army and Marine infantry and special operations forces. He offers concrete examples of upgraded weaponry, useful technical solutions to enhance human senses, much more demanding training, and effective borrowings from the social sciences. If adopted, such reforms would compel a cultural change in our military and, indeed, in our broader society’s expectations of our troops. That’s what’s required for our country to dominate the close fight embraced by our enemies. With a new administration in Washington, D.C., Scales is offering the hard-won, hard-edged military advice the incoming civilian leaders need to hear.” *Army Magazine* “Scales is most convincing when he presents detailed arguments, such as specific equipment that would help the infantry and be cost-effective. The descriptions of the changing nature of war requiring boots on the ground among the population and sensitivity to public opinion are insightful. He also effectively criticizes the over-mechanization of war, charging that Washington forgets that it is the sweat and blood of soldiers that wins wars. Overall, Scales makes some strong points, particularly his advocacy for the infantry.” *The Huffington Post* “In this short, eminently readable, and deeply affecting blend of military analysis and memoir, Robert Scales, retired US Army general, artillery commander in Vietnam, and distinguished military historian, identifies the major trends shaping modern American warfare, the dynamics in American politics that are constraining our nation’s influence abroad, and the practical solutions that can turn things around.” *The Boston Globe* “The former commandant of the Army War College and occasional news-media military analyst (Fox News and NPR) weighs in next month with ‘my last shot to tell the story of neglect, ahistoricism, intellectual hubris, corruption and ignorance about the nature and character of war that has left too many of our (mostly) soldier sons dead on our battlefields.’ With two daughters in the Army, he fears that ‘my grandchildren will fight with Reagan-era weapons’ because the Department of Defense ‘wants to buy big, expensive stuff that floats and flies’ instead of equipping the boots on the ground. He believes ‘war is inherently a human rather than technological exercise,’ and he wants appropriate supplies including officers who are selected early because they are ‘promising strategists in the midst of their tactically competent brethren.’” *Military Times* About the Author Maj. Gen. Bob Scales, USA (Ret.), is one of America’s most respected authorities on land power. He commanded two units in Vietnam and is the recipient of the Silver Star for action during the Battle of Hamburger Hill. He commanded units in Korea and the United States and completed his service as commandant of the Army War College.