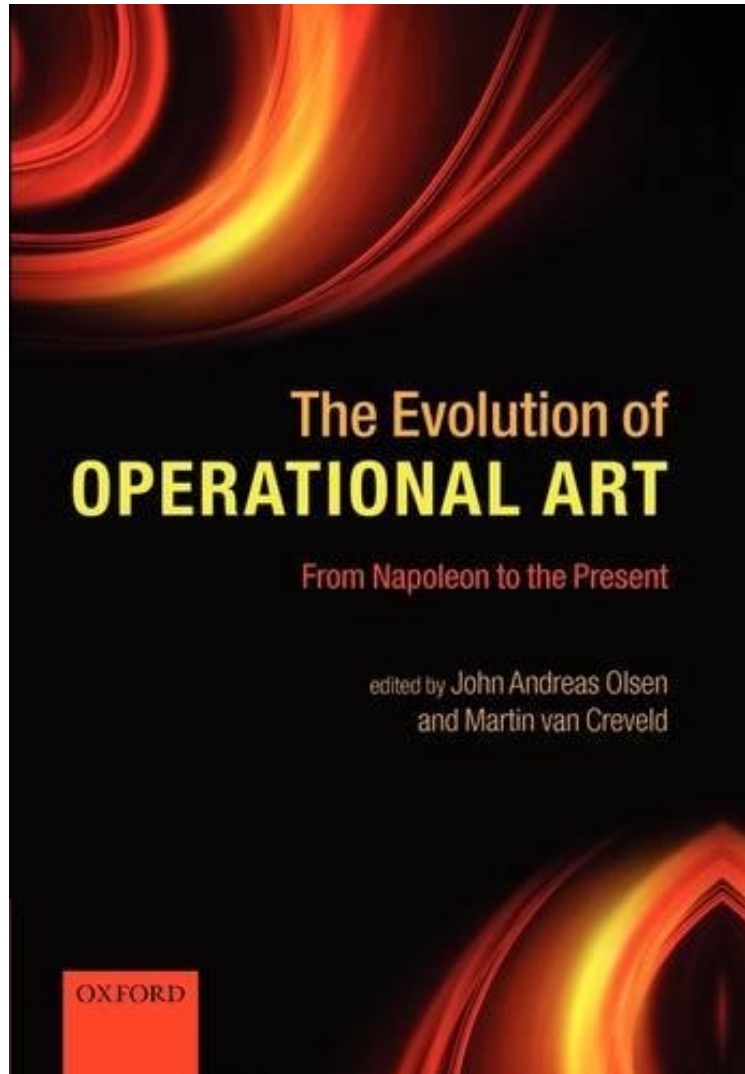


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## The Evolution of Operational Art: From Napoleon to the Present

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6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Better books on subject available By Paul K. Van Riper I teach the evolution of operational art in a US military command and staff college and use a dozen books as references, so I have some familiarity with the available literature. Though this is a book that instructors and serious students of operational art might benefit from reading, it is not the one I recommend students study because of the uneven quality of the material. I most often refer them to Historical Perspectives of the Operational Art published by the United States Army

Center for Military History. There are also several books on Soviet and Russian development of operational art that students of the subject will find valuable. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
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Broadly defined as the grey area between strategy and tactics, operational art spans the theory and practice of planning and conducting campaigns and major operations aimed at accomplishing strategic and operational objectives in a given theatre of operations. An intermediate link between strategy and tactics has always existed, but a distinct concept that encompasses a systematic and deliberate plan of campaign for major operations is a mere two hundred years old. Based on country specific case-studies, *The Evolution of Operational Art* describes how the concepts that underpin operational art originated, how they received practical expression in various campaigns, and how they developed over time. The point of departure is the campaigns of 'the God of War', Napoleon Bonaparte. The book then proceeds with chapters on the evolution of operational art in Prussia / Germany, the Soviet Union / Russia, the UK, US, Israel, and China. The final chapter deals with the future of operational art in irregular warfare. Theory is critical to refining and improving existing methods of applying operational warfare, and its importance cannot be overstated; however, to be useful, theory and its accompanying vocabulary must be combined with a proper examination of historical trends and practical experience. *The Evolution of Operational Art* attempts to achieve that combination. This book is a project of the Oxford Leverhulme Programme on the Changing Character of War.

About the Author Colonel Dr. John Andreas Olsen is Deputy Commander at NATO HQ Sarajevo, and Visiting Professor of Operational Art and Tactics at the Swedish National Defence College. He was the Dean of the Norwegian Defense University College and Head of the Division for Strategic Studies at the Norwegian Defense Command and Staff College from 2006 to 2009. A serving officer, his recent assignments include tours as the Norwegian liaison officer to the German Operational Command in Potsdam, as the military assistant to the attache in Berlin, and as a tutor and researcher at the Norwegian Air Force Academy. Professor Martin van Creveld is Emeritus Professor of History at Hebrew University. He is one of the leading experts on Military History and Strategy, with a special interest in the Future of War. Van Creveld has authored twenty books, and has been a consultant for the defence establishments of several countries.