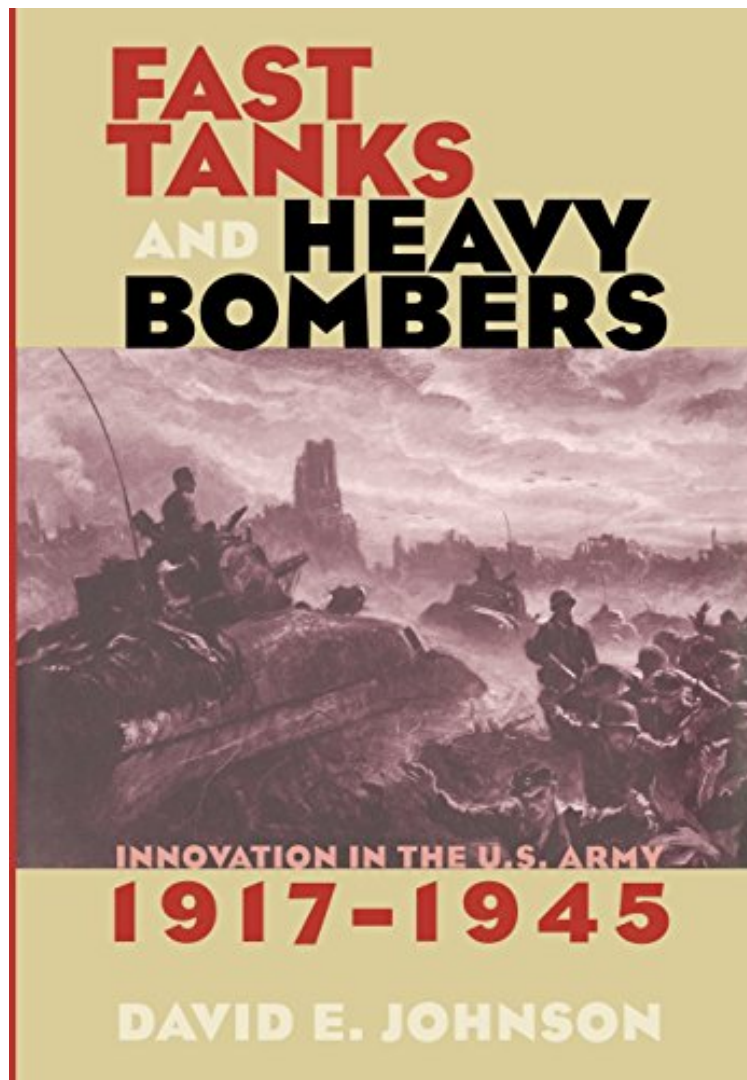


[Mobile ebook] Fast Tanks and Heavy Bombers: Innovation in the U.S. Army, 1917–1945 (Cornell Studies in Security Affairs)

Fast Tanks and Heavy Bombers: Innovation in the U.S. Army, 1917–1945 (Cornell Studies in Security Affairs)

David E. Johnson

ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#3739109 in Books Cornell University Press 1998-11-19Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.51 x .98 x 6.311, 1.39 #File Name: 0801434580304 pages | File size: 76.Mb

David E. Johnson : Fast Tanks and Heavy Bombers: Innovation in the U.S. Army, 1917–1945 (Cornell Studies in Security Affairs) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fast Tanks and Heavy Bombers: Innovation in the U.S. Army, 1917–1945 (Cornell Studies in Security Affairs):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great discussion of the issues in the US Army that led to failure and disaster at the beginning of WW II,By Bayard B.A fascinating discussion of the issues that led to so much failure and

so many disasters at the beginning of and during World War II. American unpreparedness wasn't just due to penury on the part of the US Congress or inept presidents during the 1920s and 1930s. Much of it was a direct result of the rigid bureaucracies and of the lack of critical thinking on the part of various organizations and departments in the US Army. As late as 1942, the chief of the Cavalry Corp pleaded with General George C. Marshal to increase the number of horses in the cavalry! It proved impossible to get the various army branches such as the Infantry, the Cavalry, and the Ordnance Department in 1941 and 1942 to establish an army that was capable of fighting a mechanized war on a world scale. General Marshal had to abolish the various Branches and establish an entirely new organization in 1942 in order to get the Army in a position such that it could fight and win a war.⁵ of 5 people found the following review helpful. Failed TransformationBy Retired ReaderThis book provides a compelling and well researched account of how the U.S. Army interpreted its experiences in WWI and how it attempted to transform itself from an internal security force into a modern army ready for an other world war. The author does so by reviewing how the Army reacted to the new weapons systems that emerged from World War I (WWI) and were to dominate military operations for the rest of in the 20th Century. He wisely concentrates on two specific weapons systems: armored fighting vehicles (tanks and armored cars), and by extension mechanization in general; and military aircraft (bombers, fighters and reconnaissance aircraft). The author discusses how U.S. Army attempted to further develop these systems and integrate them into its force structure and force planning. It quickly becomes clear that the unprepared state of the U.S. Army at the start of World War II was the direct result of misunderstanding the implications of these weapon systems for modern warfare and the faulty tactical doctrines that resulted from this misunderstanding. The author demonstrates that the extreme austerity imposed on the Army between the wars exacerbated this unprepared condition, but it was not the sole cause of it. In the end, lack of well thought out doctrines impeded not only the Army's efforts to prepare for modern war, but the development of the weapon systems with which to fight it.This reviewer would suggest that anyone interested in this book would be well advised to also read a second book, "Beyond the Trenches" by General William E. Odom (ret). In it Odom traces the development of U.S. Army doctrine between the wars and the factors preventing the emergence of a really sound set of doctrines and plans.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book!By Joshua AckermanI was required to read this book (among 2 others) for my U.S. Military History class. The book is outstanding. Anyone interested in history and military strategy would find this as an excellent read.

The U.S. Army entered World War II unprepared. In addition, lacking Germany's blitzkrieg approach of coordinated armor and air power, the army was organized to fight two wars: one on the ground and one in the air. Previous commentators have blamed Congressional funding and public apathy for the army's unprepared state. David E. Johnson believes instead that the principal causes were internal: army culture and bureaucracy, and their combined impact on the development of weapons and doctrine.Johnson examines the U.S. Army's innovations for both armor and aviation between the world wars, arguing that the tank became a captive of the conservative infantry and cavalry branches, while the airplane's development was channeled by air power insurgents bent on creating an independent air force. He maintains that as a consequence, the tank's potential was hindered by the traditional arms, while air power advocates focused mainly on proving the decisiveness of strategic bombing, neglecting the mission of tactical support for ground troops. Minimal interaction between ground and air officers resulted in insufficient cooperation between armored forces and air forces.Fast Tanks and Heavy Bombers makes a major contribution to a new understanding of both the creation of the modern U.S. Army and the Army's performance in World War II. The book also provides important insights for future military innovation.

"A powerful book. . . . Johnson convincingly takes aim at the current wishful thinking that a sound defense depends merely on money spent, and that only politicians, not soldiers, are responsible for their lack of preparedness. His powerful and convincing historical analysis offers profound implications for today."?Foreign Affairs "This book gives great insights into our military's (not just the U.S. Army's) innovative process during the interwar years. As we now find ourselves in a similar interwar period, with similar interwar opportunities for either stagnation or innovation, the book is extremely relevant to today's national defense establishment. There is great insight to be derived from these pages. . . . Johnson has done a superb job of researching his subject. He has written an interesting book based on mountains of documentation. . . . There is much more to Fast Tanks and Heavy Bombers than documented history. To the educated reader, this book is a warning for today."?Marine Corps Gazette "This well documented and convincingly argued book . . . speaks to the follies of extremists in today's airpower versus land power debates."?Naval War College "In Fast Tanks and Heavy Bombers, David Johnson does an excellent job of taking in the big picture, breaking it down into its parts and then tying it back together to form a cohesive whole of U.S.Army policy during the interwar period."?Air Power History "Johnson's nicely researched and well written study is much more than an interesting account of tank and airplane development during the interwar years. Fast Tanks and Heavy Bombers is a fascinating intellectual and cultural history of the interwar Army with intriguing implications for our own day. "?Parameters "Johnson's book should be read and his conclusions debated. His work is timely and relevant to the Army and Air Force today."?Army Magazine "The subject of Fast Tanks and Heavy Bombers is familiar?an interwar army, crippled

by austerity and public apathy?fails to modernize and enters the next war unprepared for the challenges it faces. But David E. Johnson departs from traditional interpretations of this scenario. . . . Johnson paints a bleak picture of an Army designed to preserve itself rather than prepare for the next war."?Military "Johnson's densely factual volume is elegantly written. . . . He successfully demonstrates that the United States Army that entered World War II reflected the biases and resistance to innovation that existed throughout the interwar years."?Journal of American History "A fine place to get a feel for the enormous task of military transformation?and also get a gritty appreciation of the risks involved?is David Johnson's *Fast Tanks and Heavy Bombers*. The War on Terror and accelerating demands for change in the Pentagon . . . make this book extremely relevant. Every military transformer should read it?and reckon with it."?Houston Chronicle "Fast Tanks and Heavy Bombers is a superbly researched and tightly argued work that chronicles the period of transformation of the United States Army from a constabulary force to the military instrument of a major world power. It forces the objective reader to reconsider the notion that America's interwar Army was purely the product of social, political, and fiscal indifference. Perhaps most importantly, it provides a poignant reminder that the destiny of the Republic in the twenty-first century will be inextricably bound up with the vision, wisdom, and professional acumen of its military leaders."?Harold R. Winton, author of *To Change an Army: General Sir John Burnett-Stuart and British Armored Doctrine, 1927-1938* "David Johnson has written a must-read for anyone following today's Pentagon debates concerning the culture and budgets of the United States military. He has provided one of the most insightful analyses of the development of the U.S. Army and Air Force between the World Wars with a special set of lessons to be learned about how a bureaucratic military system precludes the best decisions for the good of the nation's overall national security missions."?William A. Owens, Vice Chairman of the Board of Teledesic and CEO of Teledesic Holdings, Ltd.From the Inside Flap"Fast Tanks and Heavy Bombers is a superbly researched and tightly argued work that chronicles the period of transformation of the United States Army from a constabulary force to the military instrument of a major world power. It forces the objective reader to reconsider the notion that America's interwar Army was purely the product of social, political, and fiscal indifference. Perhaps most importantly, it provides a poignant reminder that the destiny of the Republic in the twenty-first century will be inextricably bound up with the vision, wisdom, and professional acumen of its military leaders."--Harold R. Winton, author of *To Change an Army: General Sir John Burnett-Stuart and British Armored Doctrine, 1927-1938* "David Johnson has written a must read for anyone following today's Pentagon debates concerning the culture and budgets of the United States military. He has provided one of the most insightful analyses of the development of the U.S. Army and Air Force between the World Wars with a special set of lessons to be learned about how a bureaucratic military system precludes the best decisions for the good of the nation's overall national security missions."--William A. Owens, Vice Chairman of the Board of Teledesic and CEO of Teledesic Holdings, Ltd.About the Author David E. Johnson is a senior political scientist at the RAND Corporation. He is the author of *Modern U.S. Civil-Military Relations: Wielding the Terrible Swift Sword* and *Hard Fighting: Israel in Lebanon and Gaza*.