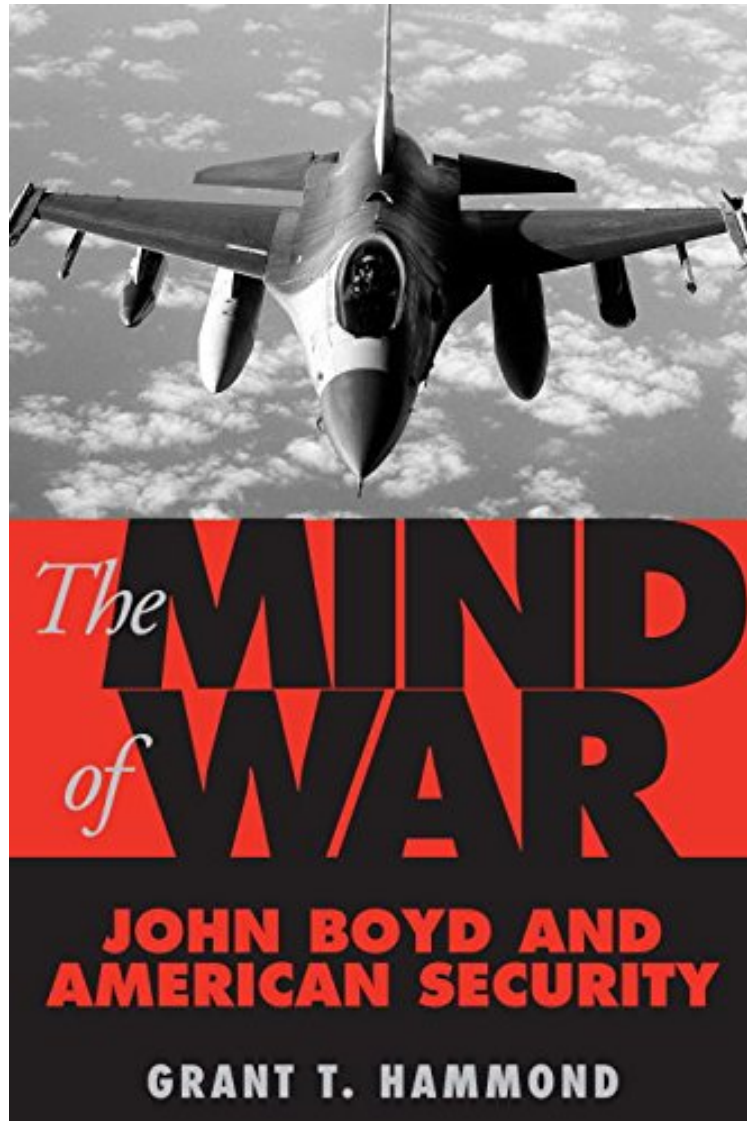


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The Mind of War: John Boyd and American Security

Grant T. Hammond

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#291004 in Books Smithsonian Books 2004-08 2004-08-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.90 x .50 x 6.00l, .89 #File Name: 158834178X248 pages | File size: 18.Mb

Grant T. Hammond : The Mind of War: John Boyd and American Security before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mind of War: John Boyd and American Security:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent add to any strategic collectionBy TinyThe Mind of War offers a different spot in the dissecting John Boyd's career and theories than the more biographical option offered by Robert Coram. Hammond, who knew and worked with Boyd during his time at War College, focuses on how Boyd thought and how his thoughts were expressed with only brief touches on lifetime events. This book helps one understand one of the basics of modern strategy, showing how Boyd achieved his ideas, and where the emphasis

should be. An excellent add to any strategic collection. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Boyd's tool: creative synthesis + voracious curiosity

By Roberto Rigolin Ferreira Lopes Here you can taste a bit of Boyd's intellectual intensity together with his numerous accomplishments in all US military echelons. This man managed to change how to fight and design fighters but also described the intellectual tools he used to do his contributions. This is priceless and is mainly related to his ability to do creative synthesis + voracious curiosity. He end up realizing that schools teach us how to do analysis leaving synthesis behind, but synthesis is the key skill to adapt therefore to thrive in life.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Do you want to be or to do?

By Jim Dulin This is an excellent book about a man who, in his own words, chose "to do" and not "to be." What he did was defeat all comers in forty seconds in aerial combat, teach his techniques to others, evaluate how he did it to create the energy maneuvering evaluation of all fighter aircraft, develop the OODA loop, and change how most militaries look at the art of war. What did the US Air Force allow this brilliant and obnoxious man of impeccable integrity to be? He was passed over twice to make full colonel. He came back to the Pentagon as a civilian paid one day per pay period. Our Marines loved him and history will treat this noble hero kinder than the h u t a Air Force which wanted to kill the best fighter in the world because he developed it cheaply.

The ideas of US Air Force Colonel John Boyd have transformed American military policy and practice. A first-rate fighter pilot and a self-taught scholar, he wrote the first manual on jet aerial combat; spearheaded the design of both of the Air Force's premier fighters, the F-15 and the F-16; and shaped the tactics that saved lives during the Vietnam War and the strategies that won the Gulf War. Many of America's best-known military and political leaders consulted Boyd on matters of technology, strategy, and theory. In *The Mind of War*, Grant T. Hammond offers the first complete portrait of John Boyd, his groundbreaking ideas, and his enduring legacy. Based on extensive interviews with Boyd and those who knew him as well as on a close analysis of Boyd's briefings, this intellectual biography brings the work of an extraordinary thinker to a broader public.

“John Boyd was a remarkable patriot whose intense commitment to learning and teaching the lessons of history changed American military doctrine and made Desert Storm possible. This study is an invaluable contribution to a little known part of our military history.”—Newt Gingrich, former speaker of the US House of Representatives

“John Boyd was one of the greatest military and strategic thinkers of our time. His story and his brilliance are superbly captured in Grant Hammond’s excellent book. This is a must read for all those who want to understand how to think about war and to learn about a true American hero.”—General Anthony C. Zinni, USMC, former commander of CENTCOM

“One of the most important books on airpower theory, strategy, technology, organization, and history to come out this year is Grant Hammond’s biography of Col. John Boyd, USAF. Appropriately, it is larger than life – Boyd’s life – for the United States Air Force of today reflects the impact of many of Boyd’s ideas.” – Aerospace Power Journal

“This book is exceptionally relevant conceptually to... ‘fighting’ a global ‘war’ on terrorism using military resources... John Boyd’s lifelong dedication helps us learn to successfully observe, assess, decide, and act before, during, and after we have been challenged or surprised.” – Journal of Contemporary Security Policy

From the Inside Flap

The ideas of U.S. Air Force Colonel John Boyd (1927-1997) have transformed American military policy and practice. A first-rate fighter pilot and a self-taught scholar, he wrote the first manual on jet aerial combat; spearheaded the design of both of the Air Force's premier fighters, the F-15 and the F-16; and shaped the tactics that saved lives during the Vietnam War and the strategies that won the Gulf War. In addition, Boyd led the Military Reform Movement in the 1970s and the 1980s, calling for radical change in Pentagon procurement procedures. A perceptive and original thinker, he synthesized ideas from across disciplines to formulate his own philosophy about warfare, competition, decision making, and the nature of leadership. Many of America's best-known military and political leaders consulted Boyd on matters of technology, strategy, and theory. His notions of time cycles and competitive behavior--known as OODA loops (Observation, Orientation, Decision, and Action)--have influenced not only military combat but also business models in the United States and abroad. Yet despite Boyd's influence within the military and in a variety of professional circles, he published nothing, preferring military briefings as his medium. In "The Mind of War", Grant T. Hammond offers the first complete portrait of Boyd, his groundbreaking ideas, and his enduring legacy. Based on extensive interviews with Boyd and with those who knew him as well as on a close analysis of Boyd's briefings, this intellectual biography brings the work of an extraordinary thinker to a broader public.

About the Author

Grant T. Hammond, director of the Center for Strategy and Technology and professor of international relations at the Air War College, is the author of *Plowshares into Swords: Arms Races in International Politics, 1840-1991*.