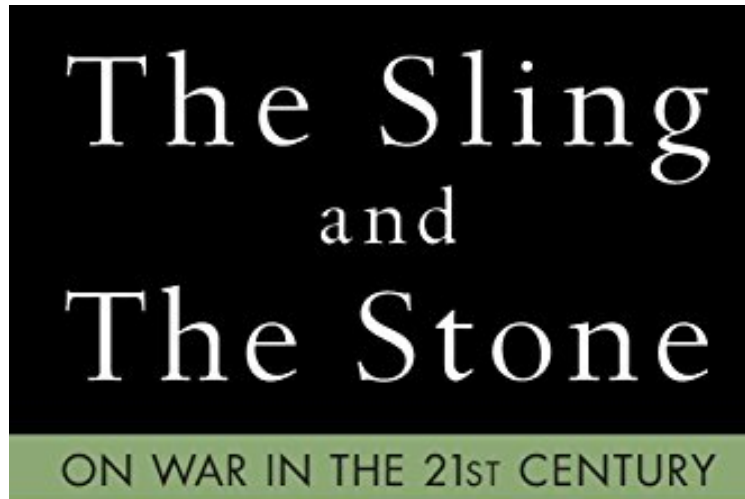


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## The Sling and the Stone: On War in the 21st Century (Zenith Military Classics)

*Thomas X. Hammes USMC*

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COLONEL THOMAS X. HAMMES, USMC

"Understanding the type of war you are fighting is the first step to winning. This book will help you understand."

—General Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.), former CENTCOM commander

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**Thomas X. Hammes USMC : The Sling and the Stone: On War in the 21st Century (Zenith Military Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sling and the Stone: On War in the 21st Century (Zenith Military Classics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Quick and easy answers are desired while the situations call for patienceBy Christopher Zelleven if you disagree with things in this book, it serves as a starting point to understand

why the foreign/military policies of the US are dismal failures - and why they will continue to be. They can bomb anyone but can't end most insurgencies. Quick and easy answers are desired while the situations call for patience, wisdom and diplomacy. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. sling and the stone By bubbles Very informative book by a former USMC officer. Provides insight into long term insurgent plans in the middle east, and reasons for the necessity of continued persistence. Begins with a short review of the evolution of modern warfare into fourth generation war, and the adaptation of 4GW in the twentieth century by various revolutionary groups. Also gives a brief but very good history of the Jewish and Palestinian conflict. If you think its time to just get out of the middle east this book might change your way of thinking. The book gets a little boggy toward the end, but overall an excellent read. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Sensible Thought By Jones The crux of this book, in a nutshell is that we need to look closely at the way we think about doing battle, about how we do battle. Mr Hammes brings that point to the forefront and I commend him highly for doing so. Our military, our country has been manipulated by well meaning, but mis guided folks that seem to think that everyone in the world will attempt to stand toe to toe with us and embrace the ensuing slaughter. We could reduce the bloated defense budget with a little common sense, and focus on what would allow us to kindly defeat our adversaries. Failure to embrace new techniques of warfare are one of the reasons that we are a free country today. They stood up and and we hid behind trees, they lost the colonies, we became a sovereign nation. Now our adversaries are throwing the entire toolshed at us, along with the kitchen sink, and all that we seem to be able to do is try and determine why they do not drop to thier knees and relent. We need to look at the culture of warfare, the culture of military personnel and take a radical approach at correcting it before we become insignificant. You can't hit what you can't see, brings new meaning to modern warfare. More of us with the capability to change the military need to read this and take some of the change on board, at least personally, and professionally.

4GW (Fourth Generation Warfare) is the only kind of war America has ever lost. And we have done so three times - in Vietnam, Lebanon, and Somalia. This form of warfare has also defeated the French in Vietnam and Algeria, and the USSR in Afghanistan. As the only Goliath left in the world, we should be worried that the world's Davids have found a sling and stone that work." - Chapter 1, *The Sling and the Stone: On War in the 21st Century*. The War in Iraq. The War on Terror. These types of "asymmetrical" warfare are the conflicts of the 21st century - and show how difficult it is for the world's remaining superpower to battle insurgents and terrorists who will fight unconventionally in the face of superior military power. This change in military conflict may seem sudden.

From Booklist Hammes is a career Marine Corps officer, and with this selection, he argues that the U.S. has adapted poorly in response to the new generation of guerrilla warfare. Fourth-generation warfare, as Hammes calls it, is what American forces encounter in Iraq and Afghanistan and Israelis find in Palestine, and it is the way of the future: guerrilla warfare characterized by political acumen and patience, using communications networks and strategic strikes to demoralize and exhaust conventionally superior militaries. For many military strategists, including those presently running the Defense Department, this new world order amounts to a call to newfangled technological arms, but for Hammes, smart bombs and spy drones are not the answer. The solution is to study our enemies as they have studied us and build a networked, flexible, and, here's the kicker, less hierarchical military structure that employs humans to fight the humans fighting us. As few as five years ago, such analysis would have had limited appeal, but in today's political climate, this concise, surprisingly readable book will attract a broad readership. Brendan Driscoll Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved Military , March/April 2007 "Can a two-and-one-half-year-old book be reviewed as a classic? It can, and should, if it says the kinds of smart, prescient things that Hammes had to say in 2004. *The Sling and the Stone* was written to appeal to a vast and diverse audience. It provides numerous jewels of information for the general reader as well as senior military leaders, military operational planners and supporters, interagency personnel, and U.S. political leaders who are looking for a provocative read to aid them in making informed decisions in support of U.S. national security. Since its first publication, this visionary book has ignited others in public and private life to read, research, write, and advocate for the United States to change its defense posture in order to meet the challenge posed by the advent of 4GW. Many of Hammes' ideas have now been adopted by the military and are currently in practice in Iraq and Afghanistan. Other ideas are being studied extensively within the Washington Beltway. U.S. homeland security and counterinsurgency doctrines have also been strongly influenced and shaped by this book. Hammes has truly been a catalyst for change ... Hammes's book is truly an enlightening must-read for Military 's readers, particularly those attending career military schools. It should remain so for many years to come."