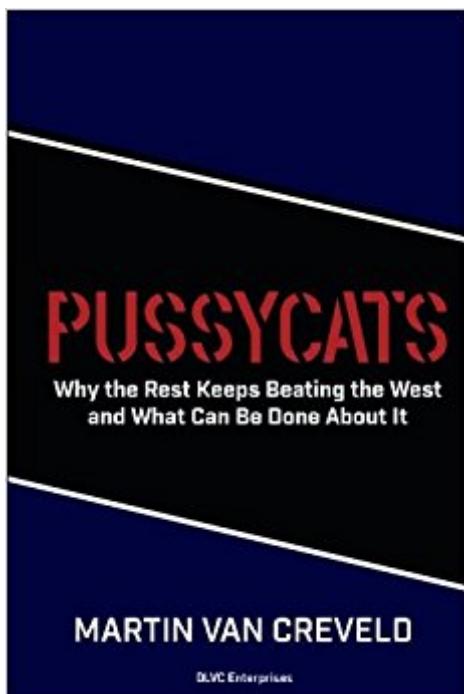


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Pussycats: Why The Rest Keeps Beating The West



Synopsis

In the kingdom(s) of the West, something is rotten. Collectively, the countries of NATO are responsible for almost two thirds of global military spending. In terms of military technology, particularly electronics, communications and logistics, they have left the rest so far behind that it is no contest. Yet ever since the Korean War ended in 1953, almost every time they went abroad and fought non-Westerners they were defeated and had to withdraw. As happened, to cite but two recent cases, in Iraq and Afghanistan; and as may yet happen if and when Islamic terrorism spreads into Europe, as it is quite likely to do. What went wrong? How did the ferocious soldiers who, between 1492 and 1914, brought practically the entire world under their sway, become pussycats? The present study, unique of its kind, seeks to answer these questions. Chapter I, "Subduing the Young" focuses on the way Western people raise their scanty offspring. Infantilizing them, depriving them of any kind of independence, and, in the words of a recent best-seller, turning them into "excellent sheep." Chapter II, "Defanging the Troops" shows how the same is happening in the military. Chapter III, "The War on Men" examines the way in which the forces are being feminized affects, indeed infects, their fighting power. Chapter IV, "Constructing PTSD" looks at the way returning soldiers are almost obliged to develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Finally, chapter V outlines the emergence of modern societies which, exalting rights and forgetting about duty, have come very close to delegitimizing war itself. The book is about 73,000 words long. It is written in jargon-less language laymen can understand. It is also thoroughly documented. Readership should include anybody with an interest in national security, and then some.

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Customer Reviews

This is a terrific book. It is short and to the point. Van Creveld's Preface will give you a good understanding of his personal goals in writing this book. His aim is to look dispassionately at the state of affairs in Western societies, and to relate that to their effectiveness in the military sphere. He begins with observations of childhood in the West, and this chapter alone earned the book five stars. I have followed the ADHD fiasco generally, but one his factoids that startled me was the revelation that Ritalin is closely related to cocaine. The text is carefully annotated, allowing me to look up the references, and sure enough it is. Worse, *Ã¢Â€Âœan astounding 19 percent of high school-age boysÃ¢Â€Â” ages 14 to 17Ã¢Â€Â” in the US [had] been diagnosed with ADHD and about 10 percent [were] taking medication for it.* (location 784 on my Kindle.) This is just one symptom of failure among the many he has identified related to our childhood practices. The rot, when seen through eyes that are not blinded by false hopes and inane optimism for the endless therapies our government is so anxious to impose on our children, is widespread and much more pervasive than you might imagine. But on reflection, you will see that everything he describes was known to you before, but you hadn't put it in a more comprehensive context or realized how out of proportion these interventions have become. This chapter is followed by "Defanging the Troops", which deals with the progressive attempt to make combat more civilized and controlled. The extent to which this process has succeeded is discouraging, because the "control" is unilateral, and our opponents laugh at our stupidity. Again a factoid, one of hundreds, will surprise you. The Army, with about 440,000 in uniform in 1998, had 4,438 active duty lawyers (location 1206.) The growth of mercenary armies is described as one result of the intentional disabling of our forces. Chapter 3 is "Feminizing the Forces", and it lays bare the failure of the project to mix men and women together in the military. Chapter 4 deals with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. I don't fully agree with some of his conclusions, (shell-shock is likely a measurable impairment of the brain caused by an explosion,) but I certainly agree with his thesis that this has been a vehicle that has been used by the left to discredit and dishonor our troops. The common narrative in the press is our soldiers are damaged goods, and there has been very little to counter this falsehood. Chapter 5 is "Delegitimizing War" and it traces the conscientious objector movement through the last three centuries and describes the West's current focus on treaties and international institutions to eliminate war altogether. He also describes the rise of "Rights" within Western societies at the same time that "Duties" are forgotten.

Like other topics in previous chapters, he uses word searches of books and reports to track our culture's interest in these ideas over time. It is discouraging. His last chapter provides prescriptions for what ails us, and it is the least persuasive. One particular strength of the book is that it identifies the agencies within our culture that have embraced what are likely to be suicidal projects to unilaterally disarm before a hostile world. For example, think of all the actors who have an interest in our children. They occupy desks in vast bureaucracies ranging from the public schools, to child "welfare" agencies, to Federal agencies that fund the subservient groups with grants conditional on adopting Federal guidelines. All of these bureaucrats act without personal accountability, and each has an interest in growing their area of control. And it is control without responsibility. Then think of the average citizen who has been sold a bill of goods by the government for its ability to intervene in each of life's little difficulties, from deciding whether to see a Doctor for an ailment, to allowing the school nurse to dope their child with powerful psychoactive drugs. And if a parent doesn't go along to get along, they risk having their child taken from them. Everyone seems to have rights to enjoy all the baubles offered by the government, but none has a duty to see that these baubles actually improve our lives. This is a very corrosive situation.

An outstanding review of current western and mainly US military culture and the wider public culture that provides the raw human material for the military. I am most familiar with the USAF having served on active duty from July 1971 thru Mar 2000 and then as a contract instructor pilot from May 2000 until the present. Some of the items he discusses that are prevalent in the USAF include, different physical fitness standards for male and females--with a subsequent lowering of male standards. Grade inflation, undue sense of entitlement (short anecdote, a Montana ANG F15 LT Col showed up 30 minutes late for a training session. In private I mildly chastised him and he broke down and claimed he was so upset I ruined his training for the day--I could only think that if this was the tip of the spear God help the USA. Finally, at least the USAF has instituted safe rooms where in the event of an attack we are supposed to go and hide like sheep until local police solve the problem. So much for our armed forces. Much to think about in the book, and hopefully we don't go the way of many of his past examples he discusses.

A much needed, but unfortunately unheeded, work. A scholarly condemnation of modern western armies with opinions reinforced by judgements found in the classics, in the Scriptures, in history, and in current events. I wish today's politicians would take this message to heart, but unfortunately for us, "What difference does it make?"

Be prepared to be not only shocked but disgusted by what is hapening to Western Greco/Judeo/Christian society. Absolutely a must read if you are as concerned as I am about the destruction of our society that is taking place by the leftists and other forces.

This book isn't just about military power, but about our society's failures as a whole. He realizes that to strengthen Western armed forces, Western society must reorganize itself from top to bottom.

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