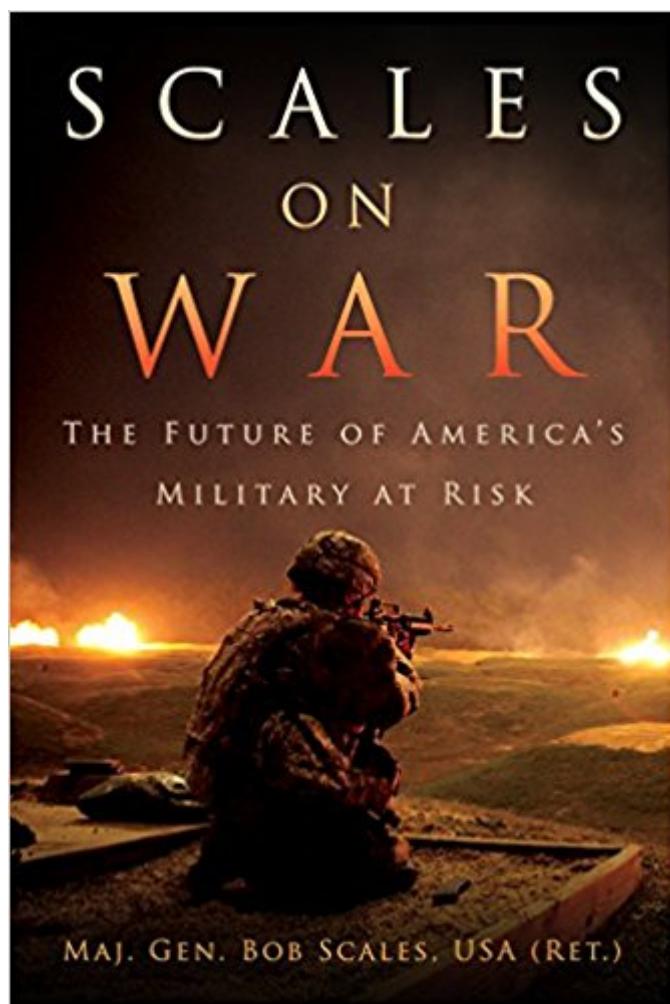


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Scales On War: The Future Of America's Military At Risk



Synopsis

Scales on War is a collection of ideas, concepts, and observations about contemporary war taken from over thirty years of research, writing, and personal experience by retired Major General Bob Scales. Scales' unique style of writing utilizes contemporary military history, current events, and his philosophy of ground warfare to create a very personal and expansive view of the future direction of American defense policies. Each chapter in the book addresses a distinct topic facing the upcoming prospects of America's military, including tactical ground warfare, future gazing, the draft, and the role of women in the infantry. Fusing all of these topics together is Scales' belief that, throughout its history, the United States has favored a technological approach to fighting its wars and has neglected its ground forces. Scales on War shows that, as a result of America's focus on winning wars with technology rather than people, America's enemies have learned how to win battles by defeating such technology. As a well-known warfare expert, Scales demonstrates how only a resurgent land force of Army and Marine small units will restore America's fighting competence.

Customer Reviews

If we wish to be ready for the next war, two questions follow: whether we can improve our ability to predict the conflict and how we might better prepare our forces to win no matter what. In his latest book, Scales takes up both questions, and, with iconoclastic fervor, tears down the business-as-usual answers to each.

Center for International Maritime Security (CIMSEC): This is a very good, thought-provoking read. The Journal of America's Military Past: Before completing the next three sentences, stop what you're doing. Go online and purchase Scales On War: The Future of America's Military at Risk, an inevitable classic. Your MOS doesn't matter. Neither does your rank. If you're a Marine at heart and subsequently believe that our Corps' foundation is built around our infantry units, read retired U.S. Army MG Robert H. Scales' new book as soon as possible. Go to a quiet place, get ready to take detailed notes, and commit to taking a hard, introspective look at ourselves courtesy of the man whom Gen James N. Mattis, USMC (Ret) considers our Nation's top warrior-scholar. His book provides our Corps an opportunity to critically look at ourselves, our priorities, and, most importantly, our close combat formation's true capabilities. Scales is spot-on in highlighting existing deficiencies, as well as in providing specific actions to take to eliminate them. Over the past 15 years of combat, the Marines who serve in these units have done their very best and performed extremely well, in spite of not being the forefront of institutional prioritization and focus. Ideally,

thousands of Marines very closely reading, thinking about, and discussing Scales On War will finally provide the long overdue catalyst required to get our Corps' priorities back in order. — Marine Corps Gazette

Maj. Gen. Bob Scales, USA (Ret.), is one of America's most respected authorities on land power. He commanded two units in Vietnam and is the recipient of the Silver Star for action during the Battle of Hamburger Hill. He commanded units in Korea and the United States and completed his service as commandant of the Army War College.

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