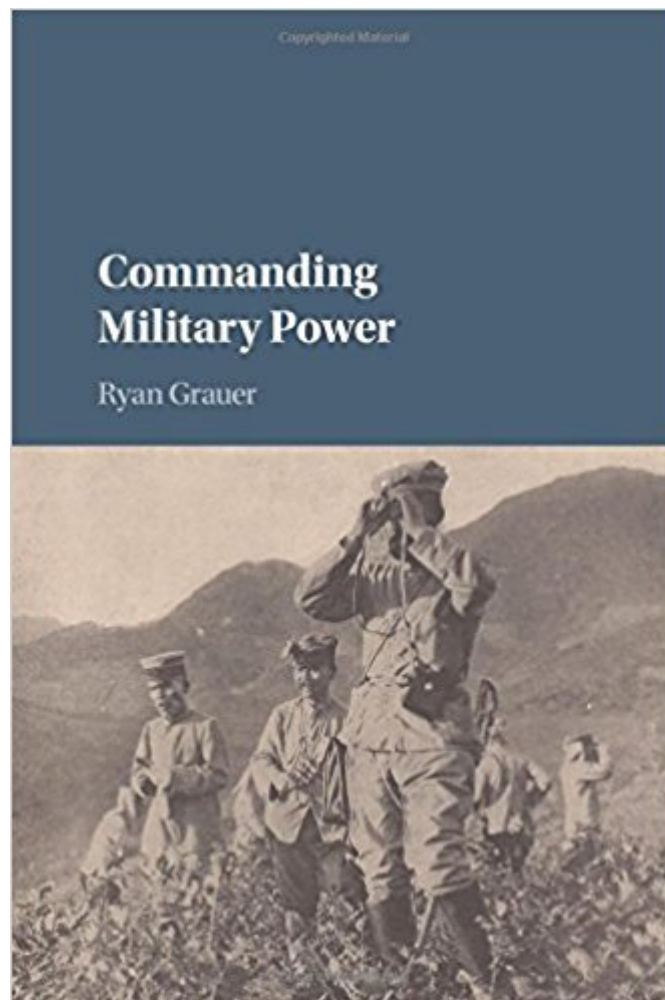




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Commanding Military Power: Organizing For Victory And Defeat On The Battlefield



Synopsis

Commanding Military Power offers a new explanation of why some armed forces are stronger than others. Ryan Grauer advances a 'command structure theory' which combines insights from organization theory, international relations, and security studies literatures to provide a unique perspective on military power. Specifically, armed forces organized to facilitate swift and accurate perception of and response to battlefield developments will cope better with war's inherent uncertainty, use resources effectively, and, quite often, win. Case studies of battles from the Russo-Japanese War, Chinese Civil War and Korean War, based on new archival research, underscore the argument, showing that even smaller and materially weaker militaries can fight effectively against and defeat larger and better endowed adversaries when they are organizationally prepared to manage uncertainty. That organization often matters more than numbers and specific tools of war has crucial implications for both contemporary and future thinking about and efforts to improve martial strength.

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Customer Reviews

Commanding Military Power offers a new explanation of military power, theorises the role of uncertainty in war and explores lesser-known but historically consequential wars and battles. It will be of interest to scholars, officers, soldiers, policymakers, and informed citizens who are curious about why some militaries are stronger than others.

Ryan Grauer is Assistant Professor of International Affairs at the Graduate School of Public and

International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh. His research on military power, surrender in war, and military diffusion has been published in Security Studies and World Politics. He has been awarded funding from the Smith Richardson Foundation, the Christopher Browne Center for International Politics, and the Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies.

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