

# Warriors and Citizens: American Views of Our Military

Americans have long held a complex and often contradictory view of their military. On the one hand, we admire the bravery and sacrifice of our troops, and we are grateful for the protection they provide. On the other hand, we are wary of the potential for military power to be abused. This tension is reflected in the way we talk about our military, in the policies we adopt, and in the way we treat our veterans.



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by Stephen Goldsmith

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## The Warrior Ethos

The warrior ethos is a set of values and beliefs that are shared by members of the military. These values include courage, honor, loyalty, and discipline. Warriors are expected to be willing to put their lives on the line for their country and their fellow soldiers. They are also expected to be respectful of their enemies and to follow the laws of war.

The warrior ethos is often seen as being in conflict with the values of civilian society. Civilians are taught to value peace, cooperation, and compassion. They are also taught to be skeptical of authority and to question the use of force.

This conflict between the warrior ethos and the values of civilian society can lead to tension between the military and the public. Civilians may see the military as being too aggressive or too willing to use force. Soldiers, on the other hand, may feel that civilians do not understand the sacrifices that they have made or the risks that they face.

## **The Citizen-Soldier**

The citizen-soldier is a person who serves in the military while also maintaining a civilian life. Citizen-soldiers have a long history in the United States, dating back to the colonial era. The Minutemen, who fought in the American Revolution, were citizen-soldiers. So were the soldiers who fought in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and the two World Wars.

Today, the majority of the U.S. military is composed of citizen-soldiers. These men and women serve in the National Guard and the Reserves. They train regularly and are ready to be called up to active duty in the event of a national emergency.

The citizen-soldier ideal is a reflection of the American belief in the importance of civilian control of the military. Citizen-soldiers are not professional soldiers. They have civilian jobs and families. They are not beholden to the military, and they can leave the military at any time. This

helps to ensure that the military remains under the control of the civilian government.

## **The Military-Industrial Complex**

The military-industrial complex is a term that is used to describe the close relationship between the military and the defense industry. This relationship has been criticized by some who believe that it leads to excessive military spending and a lack of accountability.

The military-industrial complex has its roots in the Cold War. During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a massive arms race. This arms race led to the development of new weapons systems and technologies. It also led to a close relationship between the military and the defense industry.

The military-industrial complex has continued to exist after the Cold War. In fact, some argue that it has become even more powerful in recent years. The United States spends more on its military than any other country in the world. This spending has led to the development of new weapons systems and technologies. It has also led to a close relationship between the military and the defense industry.

The military-industrial complex is a complex and controversial issue. There are many different perspectives on the issue. Some people believe that the military-industrial complex is a necessary evil. They argue that it is necessary for the United States to maintain a strong military in order to deter its enemies. Others believe that the military-industrial complex is a threat to democracy. They argue that it leads to excessive military spending and a lack of accountability.

## **The Future of the Military**

The future of the military is uncertain. The United States is facing a number of challenges, including the rise of China, the threat of terrorism, and the ongoing war in Afghanistan. The military will need to adapt to these challenges in order to remain effective.

One of the biggest challenges facing the military is the rise of China. China is rapidly modernizing its military. It is also expanding its military presence in the Asia-Pacific region. The United States will need to find ways to compete with China without provoking a war.

Another challenge facing the military is the threat of terrorism. Terrorism is a global problem. It is a threat to the United States and its allies. The military will need to find ways to combat terrorism without violating civil liberties.

The ongoing war in Afghanistan is also a challenge for the military. The United States has been fighting in Afghanistan for over 20 years. The war has been costly in terms of both lives and money. The military will need to find a way to end the war without sacrificing the gains that have been made.

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The American military is a complex and multifaceted institution. It is a source of both pride and concern for the American people. The military has a long history of service to the country. It has fought in wars, defended the

country from its enemies, and provided humanitarian assistance. The military is also a major part of the American economy. It employs millions of people and generates billions of dollars in revenue.

The American people have a complex and often contradictory view of their military. They admire the bravery and sacrifice of our troops, and they are grateful for the protection they provide. On the other hand, they are wary of the potential for military power to be abused. This tension is reflected in the way we talk about our military, in the policies we adopt, and in the way we treat our veterans.

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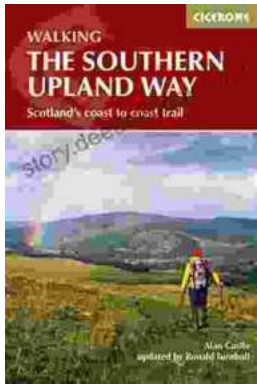
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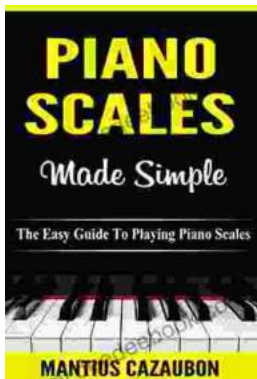
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