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Abstract

The textbook is addressed to undergraduate and postgraduate students of political science, history or military history (war studies). It is also aimed at a wider audience who would like to gain a general knowledge of the topics covered. It traces and analyses the longitudinal relationship between the phenomenon of war and the particular form and function of political power. The analysis is based on a comparative approach to this relationship in specific historical periods (Bronze Age empires, Homer, classical Greece, Rome, ... to the total wars of the 19th and 20th centuries and the low-intensity "self-fueled" wars of the modern era). The techniques of war - the material - economic substrate that accompanies

them, the social norms associated with each type of war and, finally, the aggregation of all these factors and their expression at the level of political power are presented in detail. A longitudinal - historical - approach to the issue establishes possibilities for a comparative approach and reveals constants in the political constitution of societies. In this way, complex concepts such as the relationship between the right/obligation to participate in war and political participation become easier to understand. In any case, the major milestones in the history of the war/politics relationship are emphasised: the column of soldiers, the Roman legion, feudal privilege, the French Revolution, total wars, etc.

