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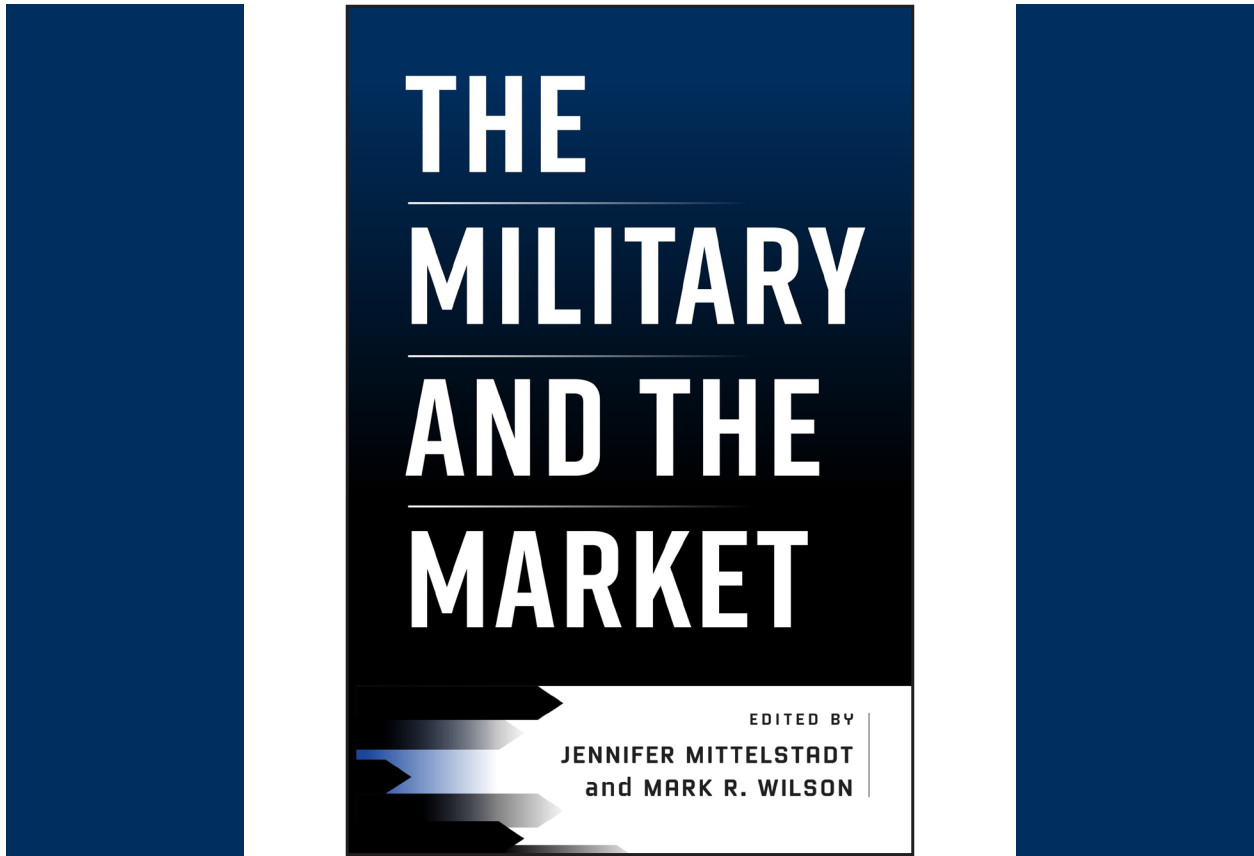
Book Review: The Military and the Market

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This an anthology of historical and political science case studies will help US policymakers and practitioners think about the interrelationships between the Department of Defense, the private market, which provides means to mission success, and the society that reaps the costs and benefits of resulting positive and negative externalities. *The Military and the Market* is largely a counterargument to the mythologies surrounding the American defense sector's economic heft and its seemingly unilateral political and cultural impact on society over time. From the infamous defense industrial complex to the heralded benefits of the all-volunteer force, the book argues for a more complex and nuanced understanding of the nation's largest discretionary spending

sector—one that is defined not just by nonlinearity and interdependence, but also a profound “record of accommodation and collaboration” (3).

The work's case studies present the success and failure of regulation and adaptation of individual markets, from on-post housing to local prostitution, and their impact on the military mission and overall social equity. It also tackles how and why the military and market adapted to produce new ways of campaigning for the US government, including the increasing use of operational and administrative contracting, the control of fiscal inflation, the export of infrastructure engineering capacity overseas, and the support to key strategic sector growth. Combined, the book bears two stark reminders that will continue to alter the character

of future military problems and solutions. First, the military is an interdependent partner with private markets and larger society in adapting public-private ways and means. Second, solutions to today's market failures become the antecedents of tomorrow's policy problem—often bearing distinctly social and ideological effects. Ironically, what is at times missing in the work is a firm grounding of the economic logic of its case studies, particularly in contrast to contemporary views, and an environment to ground readers in the economic consensus of the era. Yet, the core contributions of the work are the under-researched political, cultural, and social implications of the selected military problems on the larger economic ecosystem in preexisting path dependencies and resulting externalities.

The Military and the Market is well suited for policymakers and practitioners alike, principally

at the local level between military installation garrison and community leaders facing the day-to-day externalities of this public-private interrelationship and at the national level between military and congressional leaders to evolve Title 10 requirements to man, train, and equip the respective branches. These leaders could benefit from the unique lens of changing public-private provision to the American defense sector over time, and its resulting coevolution with the larger contemporary military-market-society interrelationship, to inform future advantage during today's era of great-power competition.

Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press • 2022 • 248 pages • \$55.00

Keywords: civilian-military, public-private markets, Title 10, military mission, American defense sector

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