

Commanding the stars

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Résumé ou extrait : In Commanding the Stars, military strategist and scholar Michael A. VanPutte reveals how the imagined worlds of science fiction can illuminate the timeless realities of war. This work fuses classical military theory with speculative vision, arguing that science fiction serves as a laboratory where strategy's eternal questions meet tomorrow's technologies and moral dilemmas. From Sun Tzu and Clausewitz to Heinlein and Orwell, Commanding the Stars explores how writers and strategists alike grapple with the essence of conflict-its logic, its instruments, and its human cost. Whether examining cyber warfare, autonomous systems, or the manipulation of perception and information, VanPutte demonstrates that fictional futures often forecast the next evolution of command and combat. This book is organized into five comprehensive parts: Foundations, Means, Military Concepts, Ways, and End Game. The book dissects the anatomy of war across real and imagined battlefields. Readers encounter the full spectrum of strategic thought: from mobilization and logistics to deception, subversion, and the ethical reckoning that follows every campaign. The book contains a list of recommended readings for further exploration, a complete list of all maxims, 190 citations for referenced materials, and a glossary of terms used throughout the text. Drawing vivid lessons from Star Wars, The Expanse, Star Trek, and beyond, VanPutte shows how speculative narratives challenge assumptions and compel flexible, creative thinking-the very traits upon which survival and victory depend. At once scholarly and visionary, Commanding the Stars bridges the worlds of the strategist and the storyteller. It invites military professionals, students, writers, and gamers to test their theories within the boundless theater of imagination before confronting the unforgiving terrain of reality.

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