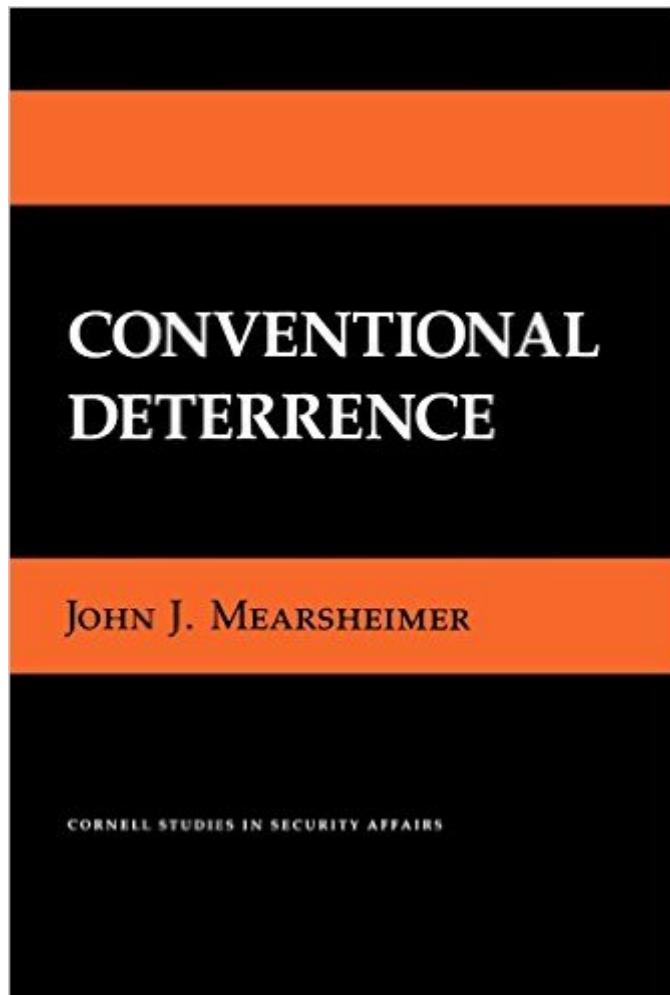


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Conventional Deterrence (Cornell Studies In Security Affairs)



Synopsis

Book by Mearsheimer, John J.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a good book that clearly defines three modes of conventional war: 1) limited territorial engagements for border regions and disputed territories (e.g. the Franco-German disputes over Alsace-Lorraine); 2) total wars of attrition, in which entire industrial economies are mobilized over an extended front (e.g. WWI); 3) the blitzkrieg, in which supply lines and communications are cut so that the entire structure of an enemy crumbles and can be quickly overrun (e.g. WWII). As far as it goes, this is very interesting and brilliantly described. However, it does not cover la guerre subversive, or guerilla wars, as we saw in Vietnam and are seeing today in Irak with the suicide bombers. While this might be called a war of attrition, it does not really fit into the framework that Mearsheimer presented, as the country is already occupied and there is no front. While I enjoyed the analysis of the three types above, what I was looking for was the uncovered type. Nonetheless, this is an excellent book and well worth the read. Recommended.

A must read to all practitioner and academic who works with the military, But also if you belong to a country where we should to think again what conventional deterrence means.

About the 1983 first edition hardcover (ISBN 0801415691)...Cornell University Press, hardcover with dustjacket, cloth over hardback boards with a sewn binding. 296 pp. Indexed. Over 50 pp of bibliographic and narrative End Notes. 17 p Bibliography.

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If you are lucky enough to get your hands on this, you'll truly understand what conventional deterrence is from a key thought leader.

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