American’s army in crisis: A study in civil-military relations, by William L. Hauser

Kourvetaris George A. Northern Illinois University

https://doi.org/10.12681/grsr.309
καταστάσεις της γεωργίας και του άγροτικού πληθυσμού, είναι αφιερωμένη περιοχή.

Το δεύτερο στάδιο, το οποίο καλύπτει το πρώτο τέταρτο του είκοσιού αιώνα, έχει ως κύριο χαρακτηριστικό την αύξηση της μονογραφικής έρευνας ως αποτέλεσμα της πανεπιστημιακής εκπαίδευσης. Ο στόχος έκφρασε, διείπετο επί της έδρας ότι η κοινωνιολογική δράση έπαιζε να καλύψει το σύνολο των ρουμανικών χωρών. Τούτο θα αδέιάζει επί της δημιουργίας ρουμανικής Κοινωνιολογίας, ΑΠΟ τη μεθόδου της συγγραφής των άρθρων, τους οποίους διαλέξει επί της Ρουμανίας και της Κοινωνιολογίας.

Το τέταρτο στάδιο, 1935-1945, χαρακτηρίζεται από μια μονοτυπική διαφοροποίηση της πανεπιστημικής μνημής της προηγημένης περιόδου. Αντί της πλειονότητας και λεπτομερούς ερευνών μιας κοινωνιολογικής μέθοδος της, έμφαση έδωσε επί της πολυπλούτωσης έκφρασης ένας προβληματισμός. Ακόμη και η λογοτεχνία δράσης μιας κοινωνικής δράσης δεν είχε τον χαρακτήρα της εικόνας και ήταν συνολικά διακριτής θεωρία, αλλά της μελέτης ένος συγκεκριμένου λογοτεχνικού προβληματισμού. Ο νέος τρόπος ερευνών έπερράσει την επιμεταγωγή σημαντικής μεθόδου.

Το πέμπτο στάδιο, το οποίο ήρθε μετά το πέρα του δεύτερου Πανεπιστημίου Παλαιού, φάνε ότι της σημείωσης. Η άλλη θέση του καθεστώτος έπερράσει και έπαιξε της ρουμανικής Κοινωνιολογίας, ή άπανη έπαιξε να διαδώσει ανάλυση του μεταθρούσας Βιβλίων—book reviews

* Αμερικής Αρμάτος σε Κρίση: Σειρά σε Καραγημένες, βιβλία στην τεχνική της Σινεϊκές, οι Κόσμος είναι κατά βάσιν κοινωνικά

This is an insightful book about the US army's current difficulties and the actions the army is taking in adapting to a rapidly changing society. The author, a West Point graduate and Lt. Colonel of the US Army, was one of those who have peripherally selected to do research and writing on a national security topic at a civilian university. The present volume is the third in a series of three books on the US army's current difficulties.

The book is divided into three parts or 12 chapters. In the first part, 'Army in Transition,' the author analyses the experiences and problems of the armies of Germany since World War II, France after Algeria, and Britain at the end of the empire. While the author argues that each case study is unique in its socio-political and historical milieu, he finds three broad issues—segregation, isolation, recruitment, and professionalism—common to all four including the US army's present crisis.

These three issues become his major focus of analysis of the US army in his subsequent two parts. Put somewhat differently, his first part is a classic case study in the Army of the Draft and the trials and tribulations of the US army but in different sociopolitical and historical periods.

Part II: 'The US Army in Transition' contains the major thrust of his book. The author examines the chronology of events leading to what he refers to as America's Army in Crisis. More concretely, he analyzes the problems i.e., drugs, racial conflict, desertion, discipline, justice confronting the US army and the steps the army has taken or is in the process of taking to deal with them. The author in a dispassionate yet intellectual and honest way marshals some evidence and suggests that there is a disjunction between the army and American society which has brought about this crisis. This crisis, however, the author argues, is not only the army's own making. In a more general way the problem lies in the discrepancy between the life styles and values of a basically hedonistic / pleasure seeking youth and the authoritarian and hierarchical structure of army life. More specifically, the author sees a 'spillover effect' or an intrusion of socialills creeping into the army from society.

The army's inexperience and slowness in recognizing and dealing with these problems has also contributed, the author contends, to the present crisis. That this crisis was further aggravated by the Vietnam issue and the army's own share of internal problems and alienation due to corruption, war crimes, and careerism committed by some of its officers and non-commissioned officers is obvious. In particular the latter the author believes created in the public's mind a kind of 'tarnish' about the army's effectiveness and professional integrity. Furthermore, the end of the draft and the introduction of an all-volunteer concept in the army at a time of a post-Vietnam disenchantment and the lack of an unpopular war made the problem of recruiting more problematic. This problem and the author threatens both the mission and effectiveness of the US army.

Up to this point the author tries to be objective and passionate in his analysis and discussion of the issues and
problems facing the US army. In his last part, however, the author in an unprecedented manner takes a stand on the issues he raised previously. In his last chapter, for example, «What to do and how to do it», the author shows that there is time for change; and drugs. One would think that the basic mission of the US army and indeed of the nation is maintained in a world of international discord and blackmail. And the army's basic mission as spelled out by the political authority is for the nation's security and to be prepared to fight all types of war.

In view of the contradictions of American society and the armed forces, the author offers something for everybody by elaborating on what Moskos refers to as «The Emergent Military: Civil, Traditional or Plural?». In fact, the author accepts in principle Moskos' pluralistic model by suggesting the splitting of the army into two parts: a «fighting» army and a «supporting» army.

This book has some unique aspects not ordinarily found in recent books on armed forces and society. First, most books on civil-military relations are written by academic social scientists. Second, most examine the impact of military on society rather than the reverse. Third, while the author is selective in his sources, he nevertheless succeeds in blending civilian and military scholarship in his analysis.

This is not only something that academics who write about civil-military issues rarely do. This analysis is not an «apostasy» of the military profession nor an «apology» for anti-military critics. It is rather a sympathetic and constructive critical analysis of some of the major issues confronting the US army. Indeed these problems can be observed in both Western and non-Western armies in industrial and post-industrial societies.

Further this book may be seen as a glowing tribute to the US army for its capacity and willingness to re-examine itself and adapt to a changing environment without losing its basic mission and role in a free and democratic society. While the author earns his brownie points, his analysis, inferences, conclusions, and policy recommendations may be challenged by a number of military personnel and civilians alike. The book for its most part reads like «A Facts on File type publication». It is episodic and anecdotal. It has a journalistic flavor for its most part reads like «A Facts on File» for anti-military critics. It is rather built.

The Greek Review of Social Research

The concept of «isolation» for example to which he devotes three chapters or 1/4 of his book is somewhat vague. Using Isolation III, he discusses problems of race and dissent; discipline, and policy recommendations. One would think that these social problems generate «social conflict» rather than «isolation» between the army subsociety and the larger society.

The book is an issue oriented analysis bar excellence. The author wrestles with the three major concepts of isolation, recruitment, and professionalism which he perceives to be the common issues underlying the crisis in the US army and its major counterparts in Western Europe on the 1940's and 1950's. In doing so, the author relies heavily on popular reporting, the mass media perceptions, qualitative material, and his own perceptiveness as a professional soldier. In other words, while his analysis, inferences, conclusions, and recommendations may be valid, one wonders if his «America's Army in Crisis» is indeed in crisis. We are told that there is a political crisis, a sociology crisis, a health crisis, a food crisis, an ecology crisis, a moral crisis, a family crisis, a legitimacy crisis, and more recently an energy crisis and ad infinitum. There is an inexact tendency of the author to hastily over-react to the army's present difficulties. In addition, the author tells us what it is about the other branches of the US armed forces view these problems.

Furthermore, the author concentrates on the year 1971 for his in depth analysis of the army's problems. How representative is this year for the over-all US army's performance and morale in the context of post Vietnam and its Watergate sequel? His proposal of bifurcation of the US army along heroic/«fighting» army's performance and morale in the context of post Vietnam and its Watergate sequel? His proposal of bifurcation of the US army along heroic/ «fighting» army vs. managerial/supporting dimensions is a rather simplistic formula for an otherwise complex social organization. Even the author himself is skeptical of its implementation. Questions as: Who is going to do the fighting? How does one evaluate a «heroic officer» or a «fighting army» in a period of detente? or conversely who is going to be accountable to whom during possible wartime? are not adequately answered. By suggesting that the «fighting/heroic» type should be an «elite» (like the air-borne paratrooper), authoritarian, isolated from society, tough and rugged, the author in fact advocates as the primordial «spartan-warrior» types as opposed to the «Athenian citizen-soldier types»? It may be that Athens lost the Peloponnesian War, yet she defeated the Persians at Marathon and Salamis and the Athenian model provided the foundation upon which Western civilization was built.

Signed articles express only the views of their author

George A. Kourvetaris
Northern Illinois University

The Greek Review of Social Research

The Greek Review of Social Research

The Greek Review of Social Research

The Greek Review of Social Research

The Greek Review of Social Research