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

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καταστάσεώς της γεωργίας και του αγροτικού πληθυσμού, είς φρόνημα περιο­χής. Το δεύτερον στάδιον, το οποίο καλ­λιέργησε το πρώτο τέταρτο του εικοστού αιώνα, έχει ως κύριο παράγοντα την από­μειωση της μείωση τού αριθμού των άνθρωπολογικών με­λέτων μετά την έθνογραφική περιοχή τού χώρος του γεωργικού αγροτικού πληθυσμού. Βασικόν ετοι­ητον της περιόδου έγινε η συμ­πλήρωση της κοινονικο-οικονομικής με­λέτης με την έθνογραφική ταξινόμηση των γεωργικών περιοχών και η κατασκευή της Κοινωνιολογίας. Το ρουμανικόν λείαν έπειδή έχει κακώς ταυτισθή μέ τάς Κοινωνιολογία δέν έχει κατορθώσει ακό­το Πανεπιστήμιον έπειδή άντιθέτως τήν διδασκαλίαν τής Κοινωνιολογίας είς μη να άποκτήσει αυτοτέ­τοιο, Dimitrie Gusti, διείπετο Οπό τής λής. Ό κύριος έκπρόσωπος τής σχολής τελεσμάτων τών έπί μέρους έρευνών, δημιουργίαν ρουμανικής Κοινωνιολογίας, τήν ιστορίαν τής Κοινωνιολογίας ώς πε­δίον τής συγκρίτικης μεθόδου. Τούτο θα άποκτήσει αυτοτέτοιο, επί σειράν έτών, ένθες τον χώρον τού χωρίου, ή όποια χαρακτηρίζεται από τήν λέτης μέ τήν έθνογραφικήν έξέτασιν τού χεϊον τής περιόδου έπίσης είναι ή συμ­εις τον χώρον τού χωρίου. Βασικόν στοι­από τήν μεγάλην διοικητικήν περιοχήν τής αγροτικής καταστάσεως της γεωργίας καί τού αγρο­

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to 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» / an intrusion of social ill's 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 allegations of corruption, war crimes, and careerism committed by the unprofessional behav­ior of some of its officers and NCO is obvious. In particular the latter the author believes created in the public's mind a «spillover effect» / an intrusion of social ill's creeping into the army from society. After Algeria, and Britain at «the end of the empire», the author argues that each case study is unique in its so­cio-political and historical milieu, he finds three broad issues—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 of the draft and the effort to ex­pand our current draft. In the second he examines the challenges facing 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, dissent, 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» / an intrusion of social ill's creeping into the army from society.
problems facing the US army. In his last part, however, the author shows that there is a change for the better; and argues. 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 to keep our country secure and be prepared to fight all types of war. In view of the contradictions of American society and the army's long-term changes, 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 but he is not supporting 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 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 other 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 the 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 part reads like "A Facts on File type publication." It is episodic and anecdotal. It has a journalistic flavor coupled with an assortment of carefully selected quotations from interviews of armed forces and society. It fails to offer an over-all coherent conceptual framework of armed forces and society beyond the three concepts/issues mentioned above. With the exception of recruitment, his other two concepts of "isolation" and "professionalism" are difficult to evaluate and operationalize. The concept of "isolation" for example to which he devotes three chapters of 1/4 of his book is somewhat vague. Using Isolation III, he discusses problems of race and dissent; discipline and drugs. One would think that these social problems generate "social conflict" rather than "isolation" between the army sub-society and the larger society.

The book is an issue oriented analysis that excels by providing a national perspective to the major three concepts of isolation, recruitment, and professionalism which he perceives to be the basic 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 incipient tendency of the author to hastily over-react to the army's present difficulties. In addition, the author tells us what the army needs to do. How does one evaluate a "heroe 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 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.

Perhaps the author reflects a new way of thinking among some of the younger generation of officers and his civilian contemporaries. He is concerned with status, images, attitudes, and morale of the post Vietnam US army. He writes with sensitivity and acumen and reflects a profound affection and concern for his country and his calling. Viewed in this light the book over-all is a thoughtful analysis of some of the major issues confronting the US army today. It should be read not only by the professional soldier but by the policy makers, students of civil-military relations and all those who are concerned with the future of the US army and its mission.