

# Twenty-First Century Military Innovation

Technological, Organizational, and Strategic Change beyond Conventional War

Contemporary war is as much a quest for decisive technological, organizational, and doctrinal superiority before the fighting starts as it is an effort to destroy enemy militaries during battle. Armed forces that are not actively fighting are instead actively reengineering themselves for success in the next fight and imagining what that next fight may look like. *Twenty-First Century Military Innovation* outlines the most theoretically important themes in contemporary warfare, especially as these appear in distinctive innovations that signal changes in states' warfighting capacities and their political goals.

Marcus Schulzke examines eight case studies that illustrate the overall direction of military innovation and important underlying themes. He devotes three chapters to new weapons technologies (drones, cyberweapons, and nonlethal weapons), two chapters to changes in the composition of state military forces (private military contractors and special operations forces), and three chapters to strategic and tactical changes (targeted killing, population-centric counterinsurgency, and degradation). Each case study includes an accessible introduction to the topic area, an overview of the ongoing scholarly debates surrounding that topic, and the most important theoretical implications. This book can be read as an overview of the themes that run throughout innovations of varying types or it can be used by readers who are interested in particular topic areas.

**Marcus Schulzke** is the author of *Simulating Good and Evil: The Morality and Politics of Videogames* (2020), *The Pursuit of Moral Warfare: Ethical Theory and Practice in Counterinsurgency Operations* (2018), *Combat Drones and Support for the Use of Force*, with James Walsh (2018).

"Schulzke, with his concise and organized style, provides a meaty read full of stimulating facts, insights, and speculations . . . well-done and enjoyable. It is crisp and tailored, yet with reference to substantial concepts and important events."

—Brian Orend, author of *The Morality of War*



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Marcus Schulzke

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