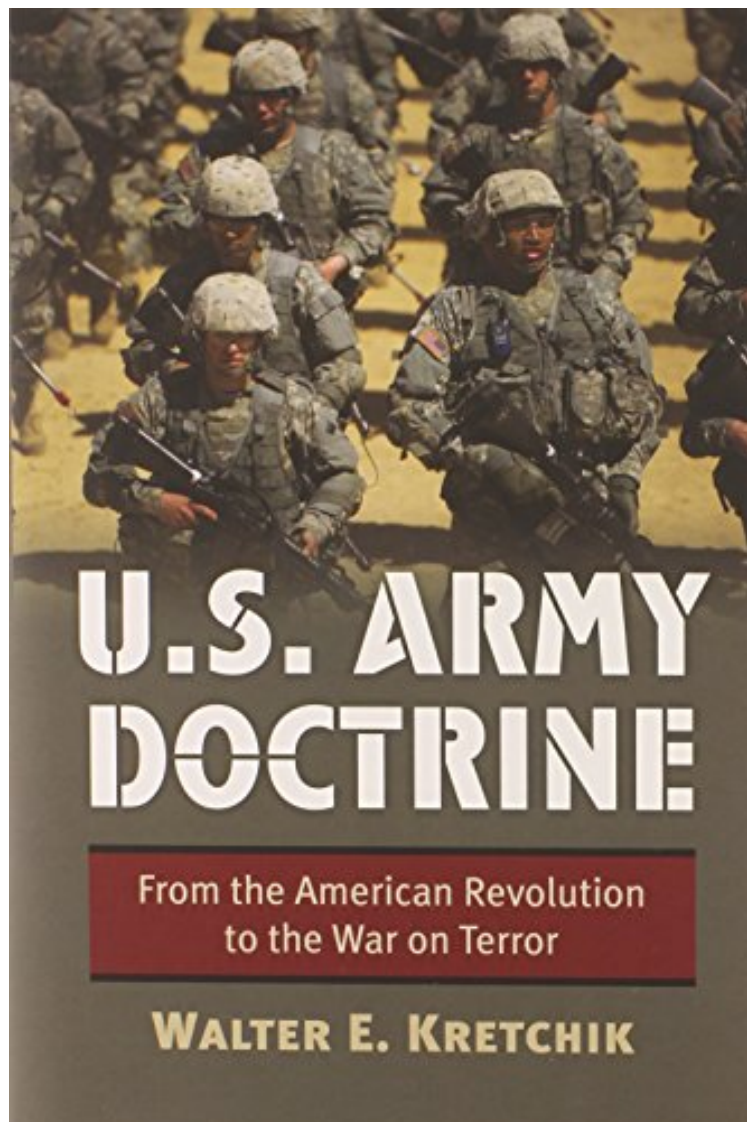


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U.S. Army Doctrine: From the American Revolution to the War on Terror (Modern War Studies (Hardcover))

Walter E. Kretchik

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Walter E. Kretchik : U.S. Army Doctrine: From the American Revolution to the War on Terror (Modern War Studies (Hardcover)) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised U.S. Army Doctrine: From the American Revolution to the War on Terror (Modern War Studies (Hardcover)):

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. comprehensive and readable By Michael Conley While the subject

may sound like a dry and pedantic subject, the author has made this very readable. He covers the subject thoroughly. He clearly shows the genesis and development of doctrine and ties it together with examples of the numerous military actions of the Army. He makes a strong case for the vital role doctrine has played in the Army while its scope and missions have expanded. As a retired Army officer and veteran, I can say that it gave me an appreciation of the driving force doctrine is that I never had while on active duty. I believe any serious student of U.S. military history should read this to give them the foundation for serious study.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great review! By Andrew Paul Betson Great review of the capstone doctrine documents from their inception through the war on terror. Also serves as a great vessel to tell the United States' military history.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Doctrine: Much More than Dogma By John T. Fishel Walter E. Kretchik has written an important and eminently readable history of the doctrine of the U.S. Army from the Continentals to the present. He very clearly demonstrates that what the military calls doctrine is critical official writing about how to organize and how to fight. A major part of the story he tells is the interplay between informal practice, unofficial writing and doctrine. As he points out, much of what the U.S. Army did from its inception was to fight irregulars whether Indians, Filipino insurrectos, Moros, or Pancho Villa's "Dorados." Of particular interest was how the Army took and adapted its doctrine to address issues that fell into the informal categories.

Full disclosure: Walt is a good friend and we have worked together on a number of projects. This book fills a hole in the historical discourse of American military writing. Walt captures the essence of the tale as well as the personalities of the players and the excitement of battle. Here, his story is about how officers and soldiers thought they would fight and how they had to modify what they thought and did to succeed in the real world of combat. It is intriguing that many of the intellectual arguments over time parallel some that are ongoing. Colonel Gian Gentile, currently at West Point, would have felt as much at home dueling with earlier advocates of informal practice as he does with the COINdinitas he now takes on. As Walt points out, it is from arguments like this that doctrine develops, borrowing from foreign thinkers and the experience of American soldiers alike. Any military person or scholar of military affairs needs to have this book on the must read list! Hooah, Walt!

From the American Revolution to the global war on terror, U.S. Army doctrine has evolved to regulate the chaos of armed conflict by providing an intellectual basis for organizing, training, equipping, and operating the military. Walter E. Kretchik analyzes the service's keystone doctrine over three centuries to reveal that the army's leadership is more forward thinking and adaptive than has been generally believed. The first comprehensive history of Army doctrine, Kretchik's book fully explores the principles that have shaped the Army's approach to warfare. From Regulations For the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States in 1779 to modern-day field manuals, it reflects the fashioning of doctrine to incorporate the lessons of past wars and minimize the uncertainty and dangers of battle. Kretchik traces Army doctrine through four distinct eras: 1779-1904, when guidelines were compiled by single authors or a board of officers in tactical drill manuals; 1905-1944, when the Root Reforms fixed doctrinal responsibility with the General Staff; 1944-1962, the era of multiservice doctrine; and, beginning in 1962, coalition warfare with its emphasis on interagency cooperation. He reveals that doctrine has played a significant role in the Army's performance throughout its history-although not always to its advantage, as it has often failed to anticipate accurately the nature of the "next war" and still continues to be locked in a debate between advocates of conventional warfare and those who emphasize counterinsurgency approaches. Each chapter presents individuals who helped define and articulate Army doctrine during each period of its history-including George Washington and Baron von Steuben in the eighteenth century, Emory Upton and Arthur Wagner in the nineteenth, and Elihu Root and William DePuy in the twentieth. Each identifies the "first principles" set down in manuals covering such topics as tactics, operations, and strategy; size, organization, and distribution of forces; and the promise and challenges of technological innovation. Each also presents specific cases that analyze how effectively the Army actually applied a particular era's doctrine. Doctrine remains the basis of instruction in the Army school system, ensuring that all officers and enlisted soldiers share a common intellectual framework. This book elucidates that framework for the first time.