



The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000

By William H. McNeill

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 By William H. McNeill

In this magnificent synthesis of military, technological, and social history, William H. McNeill explores a whole millennium of human upheaval and traces the path by which we have arrived at the frightening dilemmas that now confront us. McNeill moves with equal mastery from the crossbow—banned by the Church in 1139 as too lethal for Christians to use against one another—to the nuclear missile, from the sociological consequences of drill in the seventeenth century to the emergence of the military-industrial complex in the twentieth. His central argument is that a commercial transformation of world society in the eleventh century caused military activity to respond increasingly to market forces as well as to the commands of rulers. Only in our own time, suggests McNeill, are command economies replacing the market control of large-scale human effort. The Pursuit of Power does not solve the problems of the present, but its discoveries, hypotheses, and sheer breadth of learning do offer a perspective on our current fears and, as McNeill hopes, "a ground for wiser action."

"No summary can do justice to McNeill's intricate, encyclopedic treatment. . . . McNeill's erudition is stunning, as he moves easily from European to Chinese and Islamic cultures and from military and technological to socio-economic and political developments. The result is a grand synthesis of sweeping proportions and interdisciplinary character that tells us almost as much about the history of butter as the history of guns. . . . McNeill's larger accomplishment is to remind us that all humankind has a shared past and, particularly with regard to its choice of weapons and warfare, a shared stake in the future."—Stuart Rochester, *Washington Post Book World*

"Mr. McNeill's comprehensiveness and sensitivity do for the reader what Henry James said that Turgenev's conversation did for him: they suggest 'all sorts of valuable things.' This narrative of rationality applied to irrational purposes and of ingenuity cannibalizing itself is a work of clarity, which delineates mysteries. The greatest of them, to my mind, is why human beings have never learned to cherish their own species."—Naomi Bliven, *The New Yorker*

 [Download The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, a ...pdf](#)

The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000

By William H. McNeill

The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 By William H. McNeill

In this magnificent synthesis of military, technological, and social history, William H. McNeill explores a whole millennium of human upheaval and traces the path by which we have arrived at the frightening dilemmas that now confront us. McNeill moves with equal mastery from the crossbow—banned by the Church in 1139 as too lethal for Christians to use against one another—to the nuclear missile, from the sociological consequences of drill in the seventeenth century to the emergence of the military-industrial complex in the twentieth. His central argument is that a commercial transformation of world society in the eleventh century caused military activity to respond increasingly to market forces as well as to the commands of rulers. Only in our own time, suggests McNeill, are command economies replacing the market control of large-scale human effort. The Pursuit of Power does not solve the problems of the present, but its discoveries, hypotheses, and sheer breadth of learning do offer a perspective on our current fears and, as McNeill hopes, "a ground for wiser action."

"No summary can do justice to McNeill's intricate, encyclopedic treatment. . . . McNeill's erudition is stunning, as he moves easily from European to Chinese and Islamic cultures and from military and technological to socio-economic and political developments. The result is a grand synthesis of sweeping proportions and interdisciplinary character that tells us almost as much about the history of butter as the history of guns. . . . McNeill's larger accomplishment is to remind us that all humankind has a shared past and, particularly with regard to its choice of weapons and warfare, a shared stake in the future."—Stuart Rochester, *Washington Post Book World*

"Mr. McNeill's comprehensiveness and sensitivity do for the reader what Henry James said that Turgenev's conversation did for him: they suggest 'all sorts of valuable things.' This narrative of rationality applied to irrational purposes and of ingenuity cannibalizing itself is a work of clarity, which delineates mysteries. The greatest of them, to my mind, is why human beings have never learned to cherish their own species."—Naomi Bliven, *The New Yorker*

The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 By William H. McNeill

Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #555893 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 1984-09-15
- Released on: 1984-09-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.44" h x 1.04" w x 5.50" l, 1.08 pounds
- Binding: Paperback

- 416 pages



[Download The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and ...pdf](#)



[Read Online The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, a ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 By William H. McNeill

Editorial Review

About the Author

William H. McNeill is the Robert A. Millikan Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in the Department of History and the College at the University of Chicago. His many books include *The Pursuit of Power*, *The Rise of the West*, and *Mythistory and Other Essays*, all published by the University of Chicago Press.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patricia White:

With other case, little men and women like to read book The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000. You can choose the best book if you want reading a book. Providing we know about how is important a book The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000. You can add expertise and of course you can around the world with a book. Absolutely right, simply because from book you can understand everything! From your country until finally foreign or abroad you can be known. About simple matter until wonderful thing you can know that. In this era, you can open a book or even searching by internet device. It is called e-book. You can utilize it when you feel weary to go to the library. Let's study.

Brittany Schafer:

The book The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make reading a book The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 being your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You can know everything if you like open and read a e-book The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this reserve?

Milan Allen:

Reading a book to get new life style in this season; every people loves to go through a book. When you study a book you can get a lot of benefit. When you read ebooks, you can improve your knowledge, since book has a lot of information into it. The information that you will get depend on what types of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your analysis, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, this kind of us novel, comics, and soon. The The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 provide you with new experience in looking at a book.

Ralph Ainsworth:

As we know that book is very important thing to add our knowledge for everything. By a e-book we can know everything we would like. A book is a range of written, printed, illustrated as well as blank sheet. Every year ended up being exactly added. This book The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 was filled regarding science. Spend your extra time to add your knowledge about your science competence. Some people has various feel when they reading some sort of book. If you know how big benefit from a book, you can feel enjoy to read a book. In the modern era like right now, many ways to get book that you just wanted.

**Download and Read Online The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 By William H. McNeill
#KV84ZSWXBLJ**

Read The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 By William H. McNeill for online ebook

The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 By William H. McNeill Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 By William H. McNeill books to read online.

Online The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 By William H. McNeill ebook PDF download

The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 By William H. McNeill Doc

The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 By William H. McNeill MobiPocket

The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 By William H. McNeill EPub