

How Everything Became War And The Military Became Everything Tales From The Pentagon 1st Edition Read Free



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Author: Rosa Brooks
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As such, war is seeping into every aspect "War made the state and the state made war" is a common explanation of the formation of modern societies. What should have been an interesting dive into the history of U. Nov 13, Marks54 rated it really liked it. She repeats herself a lot. Her book basically talks about how the military has taken over many of the responsibilities by which I believe she means both government and private institutions that deal with solving global problems. As a reporter, first for Time and now The New Yorker, Trillin has covered over five decades of the civil rights movement and its aftermath. Nov 27, C M rated it liked it Shelves: democracy , north-america , politics , terrorism Harcourt, are

facets of a new and radical governing paradigm in the United States--one rooted in the modes of warfare originally developed to suppress anticolonial revolutions and, more recently, to prosecute the war on terror. She does discuss the total secrecy surrounding the use of American Special Forces and drones in foreign countries. And then, she boldly suggests, we should make service compulsory for everyone. A fantastic read! Or of the ambush in Baton Rouge by a veteran who shot three policemen to death? Who was going to pay for it? She also mentions how more and more documents are being classified as secret. But that kind of deadly ambiguity is cooked into the vile, ill-defined nature of the sprawling mess we call war these days James King August 9, This revised edition of a classic analyzes the centuries-long debates about the nature of reason, justice, equality, and power. Brooks explained to the incredulous caller that moving a drone into foreign air space demanded a great deal of planning, volumes of legal advice and the right senior official to sign off on where a drone would come from, who would control it and analyze its images, and who would carry the can if it were shot down. Sep 12, Maria LeBerge rated it it was amazing. Lists with This Book. Ms Brooks is an obviously talented writer and law professor. And I think perhaps even more broadly, the organization of the federal government science through the federal gover A great perspective on how DoD has tried to adapt to a changing global environment. Reading How Everything Became War and the Military Became Everything is like having a conversation with a smart, wry, and unsentimental friend who guides and pushes us toward a new set of answers. Jun 02, Chad Manske rated it really liked it. I recall a narrative, somewhere I cannot locate now, that President George W. But this quote doesn't belong solely to history. Aug 29, Meredith rated it really liked it. She is not one of those best who lack all conviction. All of this though, while fascinating, seems partially intended to build credibility for what she wants to argue in the second portion of the book. Other editions. Brooks traces this seismic shift in how America wages war, and provides a rallying cry for action as we undermine the values and rules that keep our world from sliding toward chaos. The United States does not release the names of those killed, or the location or number of strikes, making it impossible to know whether those killed were legitimately viewed as combatants or not. To provide some context on the author, Rosa Brooks, she is a contributor to Foreign Policy, a legal scholar and Georgetown law professor, who spent several years working at the Pentagon under Michele Flournoy, former Undersecretary of Defense for Policy. Moreover I felt that the discussion of the drone program was insightful and made me think a bit more about the reasoning behind it as I find the drones seem to detract from the horrors of war that we are supposed to feel so as not to keep repeating it As a development economist it was insightful to read this book to have a clear understanding of why I keep coming across problems with the military stepping on NGOs and non-profit toes. Kevin Govern on August 10, at pm. Some of the 'solutions' offered in the book's final section fell too short as a mix of inspirational get-to-it and huge unlikely pronouncements like the following: "we will need to thoroughly overhaul existing international governance structures, and pour both money and diplomatic energy into persuading other powerful states to join us. Brooks envisions a reimagined military that is something other than a "military. Rosa Brooks traces this seismic shift in how America wages war from an unconventional perspective—that of a former top Pentagon official who is the daughter of two anti-war protesters and a human rights activist married to an Army Green Beret. Brooks was in the room where it happens. For being a self-proclaimed military outsider who spent as Michele Flournoy's deputy at USD P , she has well captured the essence of much national security decision making challenges involving the military's use. Legal theorists and policymakers will approve the scholarship and close analysis; general readers will appreciate the sensitive storytelling, the wit, and the uncommon good sense. The book is written well and interspersed with anecdotes from the authors experiences working in the Pentagon, as well as visiting Iraq, Afghanistan, Uganda and other places the U. Her observations about the culture gap between government civilians and the military are especially revealing. Hardcover , pages. Send email Mail. Indeed, in the covert battlefields of today, drones have begun to erode the need for manpower, giving politicians even less incentive than before to listen to the demands of their constituency. The military is the largest employee in the U. I'm sad to give a bad review, since I really try to empathize with how hard it is to be a writer, but this book was extremely hard to glean anything from. You can tell this book was written by a lawyer, because most of the book talks about legal issues, but spends equal amount of time arguing the other side of that legal issue. She does talk a lot about drones and her point of view about them is worth reading the book. To get through this book faster, I rented the physical book and audiobook from the library. But it could have been responded to as a crime , in which an entirely different set of legal paradigms would have come into play. Along with history, Milner looks at practical considerations that spring from knowing our exact location. Discussing theories that have dominated nightmare scenarios from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Kaplan presents the unthinkable in terms of mass destruction and demonstrates how the nuclear war reality will not go away, regardless of the dire consequences. Underfunded civilian agencies like the State Department are often passed over and their work given to the only agency whose budget has remained constant. No trivia or quizzes yet. She discusses terrorism, torture, drone warfare--and other types of warfare I hadn't imagined possible. Fleeing suburban life, a woman brings along her two children on a road trip to Alaska. But when a state of semi-war becomes more or less permanent, the erosion of basic legal and democratic principles becomes a greater danger. I know I picked it up, expecting to find something more liberal than what the book turned out to be. Published: Penguin Press - June 23rd, With her two years at the Pentagon she has bought into the system quite a bit but at the same time has quite a few informed criticisms of US activities. By Colson Whitehead. But is democracy, in fact, dependent on war to survive? Equally illuminating is her examination of the resentment that the military has generated by expanding its role, assuming responsibility for all manner of unlikely projects. More filters. I also sometimes wondered who Ms. This comparison is not made, nor even mentioned in Brooks' account, and I think it is a significant missed opportunity. Brooks says that the military should embrace its new, ambiguous role and society should help it develop along that path. But none of these complaints really held up upon reflection. She is the mother of two girls and married to an Army Special Forces officer. Military personnel now analyze computer code, train Afghan judges, build Ebola isolation wards, eavesdrop on electronic communications, develop soap operas, and patrol for pirates. It may not be a direct comparison, and there are probably a great number of reasons to quibble with the comparison, however, even if we grant the incongruity between Yugoslavia and the Middle East, as far as the worst case of failure might be considered MOOTW has been drastically less expensive in terms of both blood and treasure. MAJ King has done a splendid review of this work much in the public interest at present. Also interesting insights about the place and it's geopolitics. The muddying of the lines that normally exist between peace and war also has implications for what happens at home. If you haven't heard of record-smashing singer and songwriter Mariah Carey, is there any hope for you? War is continuing to remake modern states in new ways. Vizzini, again. The book covers a lot of territory both historical and the personal trip of the author through her time at the Pentagon. By turns a memoir, a work of journalism, a scholarly exploration into history, anthropology and law, and a rallying cry, "How Everything Became War and the Military Became Everything "transforms the familiar into the alien, showing us that the culture we inhabit is reshaping us in ways we may suspect, but don't really understand. Exploring the consequences of these ill-defined and never-ending wars, this book calls for a re-examination of this destructive approach to governance. For Brooks, her time in the Pentagon got off to a weird start. Brooks, a professor at Georgetown University Law Center and a columnist for Foreign Policy magazine, is in a decent position to answer it. For example, a White House national security staffer called to order immediate drone surveillance in Kyrgyzstan. And if the military will have a larger and broader role in the world in

which we live, don't I want its officers trained in a liberal arts setting, given tools for cultural literacy and understanding diversity and history and critical thinking? That's a lot of secrecy for a targeted killing program that has reportedly caused the deaths of several thousand people. View 1 comment. Just a moment while we sign you in to your Goodreads account. She was already revolted by the torture at secret C. Other Editions 6. Error rating book. By Peter Baker, Susan Glasser. Trivia About How Everything Be The charming story of a cranky old ghost who haunts the bake shop she used to own is now in paperback! She was a pavement hostage to two angry young Iraqi men who jumped out of a pickup truck to menace her, in fluent English, with accusations of torture and beatings by American soldiers, and of dead Iraqi children dismissed as collateral damage. Follow Us Facebook Youtube Twitter 28, followers. And I reject her resolution to accept perpetual war. But when this process goes too far, it damages a person's authenticity and essential humanity. The pivot in her feelings was seeing raw footage of Rwandan corpses clogging the waters of Lake Victoria after United Nations troops stood aside from the killings. The second, despite or perhaps because of this, is the gulf in understanding that is making civil-military relations increasingly fraught. Thanks for telling us about the problem. Where would the drone come from? Her experiences lead her to an urgent warning: When the boundaries around war disappear, we risk destroying America's founding values and the laws and institutions we've built and undermining the international rules and organizations that keep our world from sliding towards chaos. She liked a lot of the people she met there and thinks they mostly try to do a good job. She mentions everything from infrastructure building and public works projects included but not limited to countries like Afghanistan and Iraq. This is the new reality, Brooks admits. This review was originally posted on The Pfäffle Journal. This seems to be a mighty task indeed, as well as one with no end game. Taxation allowed states to raise revenue to the point that non-state actors could no longer compete with the state. As I said there are several interesting topics discussed — many from a legal point of view. This is hardly a new question. But at its heart it is a rallying cry, for Brooks shows that when the war machine breaks out of its borders, we undermine the values and rules that keep our world from sliding toward chaos. She recounts once receiving a phone call from a member of the White House national security staff, asking the Pentagon to make a drone available for monitoring a human rights crisis in Kyrgyzstan. Rating details. But Brooks rightly points out that war and peace have always been on a spectrum rather than on a binary the World Wars were notable exceptions that predominate in our minds. A great perspective on how DoD has tried to adapt to a changing global environment. Summary: A distinguished political theorist sounds the alarm about the counterinsurgency strategies used to govern Americans Militarized police officers with tanks and drones. Your Email. That said, for what Brooks does present, it is cogent, interesting, and compelling. Laws, social norms and institutions need to adapt to this new reality. But after the election, she knew she needed to do more, and her nearly completed manuscript went in the trash. Dec 18, Murtaza rated it really liked it. Her ultimate solution is universal service and how she gets there is very pragmatic. How about 'well informed'? And by police she means the army will become more engaged with the people in those countries — for social and economic development. Summary: Inside secure command centers, military officials make life and death decisions— but the Pentagon also offers food courts, banks, drugstores, florists, and chocolate shops. As a neophyte to foreign policy, listening to the podcast has been a learning experience. In particular, Brooks examines the historical development of the concept of sovereignty and points out that often this is an artificial construct, imposed upon nations that never actually had cohesive boundaries or the ability to effect policy within those boundaries. By Ottessa Moshfegh. As she argues herself, when all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. In the absence of such changes we will live in a state of effective lawlessness, where the government has the ability to operate in a grayzone that makes essentially everything permissible. This is a minor critique, however, and anyone concerned about how the new administration will engage to modernize the military while trying to clean up the mess in Washington will do well to read what Rosa Brooks has to say about the military-industrial complex in Religious groups have members that commit many years of service in communities learning the language and culture, whereas the military has a tendency to rotate personnel creating a discontinuity and a lack of commitment. The Pentagon's a strange place. War and along with it the military, has become everything. What Can I Do? Excellent only as a cautionary tale. His book comprises essays and reporting from across the country, standing as a reminder of the progress that has, and has not, been made. Many are interesting and some searing. Yet Ms. Inside Pentagon work talks about the military culture and how are military dominates our state and culture. By Elliot Ackerman. On one hand, this sounds suspiciously like "permanent-war" and the militarization of society. Please give us a little bit of information about your event and a member of our staff will contact you. She argues that this has been, despite notable exceptions such as Rwanda and Syria, largely successful but that it is beginning to fail in light of the new realities of warfare. The nature of warfare is changing, and for better or worse she believes the military is going to continue to expand into new roles. Published: St. This, she says, gives rise to contractions when a sovereign state is violating human rights. For anyone who's been following these things closely, there probably isn't too much of the middle descriptive chapters to reward the price of the book; rather, download the kindle sample and get a sense of the overall argument that way. Seat Chart Close. Nov 14, Void lon iXaarii rated it really liked it. In such a scenario war will also slowly "make the state" at home as it already is beginning to do, developing it into a violent, opaque, Orwellian institution unbounded by any moral or legal constraints. Finally, she married a career soldier and so has even deeper insights into the strange and somewhat insular world of the military. Social media that distract and track us. As war expands, so does the role of the US military. I had a visceral feeling of dislike for this book, but I found the reasons for my reaction hard to pinpoint. Mar 10, Rich rated it really liked it. Her discussion here is energetic, her case histories are well selected and her thought experiments clarifying. Is Rosa Brooks psychic? She then examines the moral conundrums of the so-called war on terror, which test the limits of these ideas. Another proposal is radical in a very different way. All of my internally articulated reasons for disliking the book were just after-the-fact justifications that didn't get to the heart of the matter. Leave this field blank. However, I don't know what the point of this book was, and I didn't even leave with any significant takeaway. All of this is discussed with a large dose of personal anecdotes, endless compliments for the US elites involved seemingly the main audience of the book and with solutions that stay solidly within the box of US hegemony and basic national interests -- the latter are particularly alienating for non-US readers, let alone more progressive non-US readers. Read more Yet as much as I value her argument, I feel she makes a large interventionist assumption in her work. We are still using legal categories from a period of standing armies, but the reality of war today is quite different. One consequence is that actual fighting has become something that only a small minority of soldiers do. By Vikram Mansharamani. In that visit, the account stated that, supposedly, the president leaned over to the commanding general there and stated, "we've got to get you out of the nation building business," or thereabouts. Books by Rosa Brooks. In the process, she wades into the waters of identity politics and intersectionality, thinks deeply about the gender wage gap, and tests a theory about the divide between Gen Xers and millennials. Drawing on a vast amount of research, and unparalleled access to the Israeli defense establishment, this book is a report directly from the front lines. This book is an admirable call, perhaps even a first step, to reigning in the disturbing excesses of our present era of violent, opaque state lawlessness. I did enjoy the thought experiments, but I feel like this is the type of logic a sophomore in college uses in a paper-- not something suited for a page text, where I'd hoped to come away with new insight. As a development economist it was insightful to read this book to have a clear understanding of why I keep coming across problems with the military

stepping on NGOs and non-profit toes. We want to be healthy. Oct 07, Hans rated it liked it Shelves: military. Brooks would like to know, do our institutions and legal systems adapt? But Ms. The daughter of anti-war activists her mother is journalist Barbara Ehrenreich, Brooks taught law at the University of Virginia and worked for both the State Department and Human Rights Watch, reporting on conflict throughout the s and s. Before the election, this guy. You name it, the military does it. And she has seen how a quiet word in a drone command center can end the life of a young terror suspect thousands of miles away. The Islamic State has an estimated billion dollars. The book is only above average when Brooks discusses specific legal issues, unexpectedly as she is a professor of international law. No one thought this was a good idea - not her husband, who had spent more than two decades in the military, or her mother, writer and left-wing activist Barbara Ehrenreich, who distrusted the police. She comes painfully close to major public works of the past and then misses how the last 30 years have been the systematic defunding of these kinds of projects and systematic funding of the military. This book circled around many topics, but never landed on anything conclusive. But Ms Brooks has a wider purpose, which is to examine what happens to institutions and legal processes when the distinctions between war and peace become blurred and the space between becomes the norm, as has happened in America in the decade and a half since the attacks of September 11th In this sense it reminded me of the book "A conflict of visions" by Sowell in the idea that through hard and traumatic experiences the author concludes that good intentions can actually very much produce bad results and the other way around When combined with rapid technological change and globalization, war is transforming the United States in particular into a country that is constantly in a kind of "war" but lacks the legal and social categories that can regulate its own behavior. I don't like it but I understand a bit more what is happening. We don't know the targeting criteria, or whether the rules for CIA and military drone strikes differ; we don't know the details of the internal process through which targets are vetted; we don't know the chain of command, or the details of congressional oversight. Sign Up for Updates Close. Drawing from her experience in the field of law, she posits that our liberal use of drones to engage targets under the guise of the war on terror in countries that we are not actively conducting combat operations could send us down a slippery slope. Aug 20, Mick rated it really liked it. She offers no clear solutions. This was very insightful, and helped to put her own ideas in Part V into the proper context. The role of the military is expanding into policing and nation building, often at the cost of other civilian government agencies. Your Name. Soldiers work, and sometimes rule, in areas once the uncontested realm of civilians. Jul 10, Mikey B. Pentagon wonk talks about the military culture and how are military dominates our state and culture. Home Page World U. In the fall of, acclaimed author Meghan Daum began working on a book about the excesses of contemporary feminism. Even as a staunch Clausewitzian myself, I found I had very little heart burn with Ms. Start with this book. Get free access to the library by create an account, fast download and ads free. As challenging as these issues are, she has a gift for wrapping them in gripping stories and delightfully witty prose. Meanwhile, we continue to pile new tasks onto the military, making it increasingly ill-prepared for the threats America will face in the years to come. She takes it as a given that the United States will have an invasive presence around the world, that we will continue to be active to protect our own interests and to police and enforce human rights abroad. I wanted to like it, but found very little relevant or interesting information. Summary : Thomas Sowell's classic analysis of the opposing visions behind today's ethical and ideological disputes Controversies in politics arise from many sources, but the conflicts that endure for generations or centuries show a remarkably consistent pattern. When in need, call the troops. She poses thought-provoking questions, like what is an Army really for? I'm glad I read it. After thinking about it further, my best guess for explaining my reaction to the book is that the style of writing, the concerns, the point of view and the method of argument all scream "lawyer, lawyer, lawyer. The organization isn't awful, the genre mixing isn't misleading, and there are as many new thoughts as in other books that I enjoyed. However what bothers me is how very little discussion is made on what the American people might think about continuing to have military presence everywhere, while it may reduce some problems, it does come across as colonialism, and when did the people get to say that they wanted this? Expanding the Army worked for F. This is a pretty entertaining read for a wonky book about war and law. Our leaders chose to respond to it as an act of war, perpetrated by a stateless enemy but giving rise to all issues in which we find ourselves as a nation embroiled today. I didn't enjoy it, nor did I feel like I learned much. There is no better guide to how and why this happened than Brooks. Disclaimer The articles and other content which appear on the Modern War Institute website are unofficial expressions of opinion. An explosive and groundbreaking investigation, Tangled Up in Blue complicates matters rather than simplifies them, and gives pause both to those who think police can do no wrong and those who think they can do no right. Want to Read Currently Reading Read. This should appeal to civilians reading the book, but not so much to active service members. Which brings me back to commencement and the standing ovation for the ROTC students. Brooks generally has more complicated sensibilities than that of a traditional liberal. A member of staff at the National Security Council calls the author, Rosa Brooks, at the Pentagon to tell her to send it on its way. As such, it often does these tasks poorly, while other civilian agencies are emaciated and dysfunctional - probably irreversibly so - and are thus woefully incapable of even trying. These are some of the key questions Yaakov Katz and Amir Bohbot address. A useful summary of various trends relating to the law and the role of more stable countries particularly the US in engaging in conflicts around the world. Soon after, Hitler and Stalin perfectly illustrated the military limitations of dictatorships, a style of governance that might be effective for mobilizing an army but not for winning a world war. The best of our journalism, hand-picked each day Sign up to our free daily newsletter, The Economist today Sign up now. Yet then after outlining the erosion of the law of war, she returns to a wonky memoir. Reuse this content The Trust Project. It is another complex, potentially dangerous, challenge that we must work to understand. Availability: In Stock— Click for Locations. The oft-cited gulf between civilian and military personnel is alluded to in this book repeatedly. Do you respect sovereignty or human dignity? Extreme Cakes Mini Calendar is a feast for the eyes and the imagination, offering an eye The arc was too broad, and it felt like she was being a true lawyer here and never actually reached a conclusion; instead, the whole book was a constant back-and-forth between two sides of various legal arguments, and the reader is left with thinking, "What was the point of this? The author is in many ways positive about the military. The only major critique of Brooks' book is that while there is a bit of an explanation of "how everything became w This is an excellent book. This book explores a vast array of subject areas. Share on Facebook Share. Leave a reply Cancel reply Your email address will not be published. This counterrevolution against phantom enemies, he argues, is the tyranny of our age. The reality is that you do not always get to choose the kind of wars you fight or how you fight them. By Peter Pomerantsev. There are also massive amounts of restrictions and policies that surround the military hence the rise of Private Security Forces that aren't beholden to the red tape. This is an excellent book. Army, Department of Defense, or any government agency. She worked as a civilian in the Pentagon and so has first-hand experience both with the functioning of the military. Professor Brooks served as a legal advisory to the Undersecretary of Defense in the Obama administration and was deeply moved by the experience, especially given her expertise in Human Rights Law and the Law of War. Sort order. And I think perhaps even more broadly, the organization of the federal government science through the federal government is one of my personal priorities. Overall, the book just doesn't really say that much new or remarkable, at least not for anyone who regularly reads quality newspapers on these topics. A must read for national security professionals as she asks and grapples with many of the questions and issues most people would rather avoid! Laws may be suspended or passed during a war

that has a clear beginning and end without too much lasting damage. And it is a good employee providing free health care sadly lacking for most Americans, subsidized housing and groceries, and a good pension. She covered personal anecdotes and recent military history pre- vs. I think Brooks is a qualified author and competent journalist. This is a book about international law, and it's a book that shouldn't be judged by its cover. Much of what animates this book is the tension between these two important aspects of her life, and it may explain the divided nature of the solutions she proposes to suit the vagaries of modern war. Bush was visiting troops in Kosovo early in before September 11th. Artists tend to think like artists, engineers like engineers, and lawyers like lawyers. Share on LinkedIn Share. Quotes from How Everything Be Johnson Does naming a thing help you understand it? An interesting read about how the Military has gradually become responsible for more and more responsibilities once tasked to Civilian agencies. Refresh and try again. Book Review Paperback Row. Summary: Peace, many would agree, is a goal that democratic nations should strive to achieve. She felt her colleagues in the military, the Defense Department and the intelligence community were good people who did their best to act carefully and responsibly. Community Reviews. Insiders view of the military. This is a book by an International Law Professor at Georgetown that is a mix of memoir, history, and policy argument about the role of law in the evolving US National Security state as it has evolved since the attacks and the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. What's the budget for the related targeting and intelligence infrastructures? Hence, I started reading the book enthusiastically Summary: A radical inside examination of policing in modern America, from a Georgetown University law professor turned reserve police officer In her forties, with two children, a spouse, a dog, a mortgage, and a full-time job as a tenured law professor at Georgetown, Rosa Brooks decided to become a cop. The Modern War Institute does not screen articles to fit a particular editorial agenda, nor endorse or advocate material that is published. Or the adjoining room, at any rate. But she may be onto something. Not my usual choice for reading. What are you trying to tell me here? Get A Copy. Overall, I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the current state of the American military and with an interest in thinking about the role the military should play in American geo-political strategy. While her thesis makes sense she did also state the problem with this and that is the old "If you always use a hammer everything looks like a nail". By Natalie Jenner. Search Search for:. Breadcrumb Library. By Anna Goldenberg, Alta L. Our current policies regarding drones will allow other countries to justify doing the same thing to people they deem a threat. Nov 09, Peter Pete McLoughlin rated it really liked it Shelves: to, modernism, , nukes-and-the-end-the-world, to, economics, owned-books, latin-american-history, politics, both. Oct 13, James JD Dittes rated it it was amazing Shelves: , current-events, political-science, the-future. By Jane Fonda. The views expressed are those of the authors, and do not reflect the official position of the United States Military Academy, Department of the Army, or Department of Defense. There are other groups, which the author ignores, that already do this like Doctors Without Borders, plus various U. As such, our present state of ambiguity is less exceptional than we think. Brooks writes with clarity and epigrammatic wit, but the random oscillations of her views may annoy some readers. Gitmo has been hard to close, peace has not bubbled up in Iraq or Afghanistan, ISIL has morphed into a new threat out of earlier groups, cyber war is happening, etc. And so, she applied to become a Reserve Police Officer with the Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department MPD, and prepared to go through the same police academy training as the city's career officers, take the same oath, wear the same uniform and badge, carry the same gun, and patrol the same streets - but, as a volunteer. How, Ms. But one guaranteed to annoy almost everybody. Brooks' characterization of war. In the final section of the book, entitled "The Game of Law Versus The Game of Life," the author recognizes this problem and calls for the reader to go beyond legal thinking in addressing the challenges that the book discusses. An academic with an enduring interest in law's troubled relationship with violence, Brooks was discouraged by the statistics on police shootings and racial disparities in the criminal justice system; she wanted an insider experience that would enable her to become an advocate for change. However I would recommend this book to anyone seeking to understand how our government increasingly relies on the military to do nearly anything with respect to foreign policy. She was in on many interagency discussions that never made the headlines, but devolved into bad blood between agencies and the White House and Defense Department. It is interesting as well to note that the military itself is kind of a welfare state in itself, providing the type of fulsome cradle-to-grave benefits that ordinary Americans do not receive, but people in traditional welfare societies do. Author: Christopher D. The middle third was less so but maybe you will find it more enlightening than I did. Today's military personnel analyze computer code, train Afghan judges, build Ebola isolation wards, eavesdrop on electronic communications, develop soap operas, and patrol the seas for pirates. Many kinds of such contradictions of the logic of military and civilian life. In she signed on to a position in the Obama Administration at the Department of Defense, from which she got a different perspective. As war expands, so does the role of the US military. This signature work may well be the first book to capture the essence of this era in all its nuances and contradictions. The hope in the Pentagon nowadays is that it can return to its core purpose of deterring and preparing for proper, high-tech state-on-state wars. A small crisis in Kyrgyzstan provided a classic chastener to righteous impulse. In addition, I think she tried to be too broad with this book. It is rather symbolic of the way that the U. Popular Nonfiction. Author: Bernard E.