



VULCAN

JOURNAL OF THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MILITARY TECHNOLOGY

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Call for Articles

Vulcan: Journal of the Social History of Military Technology offers a new venue for historians and social scientists to publish their research on the history of military technologies in their social or cultural contexts. Academic and public interest in the history of military technology has always been substantial, but has usually been expressed in terms of weaponry, warships, fortifications, or other physical manifestations of warfare, with emphasis mainly on how they were made or how they worked, often in antiquarian detail. Writers in the field have also tended to assume a strictly utilitarian and rational basis for military technological invention and innovation. However indispensable such approaches may be, they largely ignore some very important questions. What are the contexts of social values, attitudes, and interests, non-military as well as military, that shape and support (or oppose) these technologies? What are the consequences of gender, race, class, and other aspects of the social order for the nature and use of military technology? Or, more generally: How do social and cultural environments within the military itself or in the larger society affect military technological change? And the indispensable corollary: How does changing military technology affect other aspects of society and culture? In brief, we want to see articles that address military technology as both agent and object of social change.

We propose to cast a wide net, taking a very broad view of technology and its wider ramifications that includes not only the production, distribution, use, and replacement of weapons and weapon systems, but also communications, logistic, medical, and other technologies of military relevance. We seek articles about representations of weapons as well

as weapons themselves, about ideas as well as hardware, about organization as well as materiel. We seek articles that explore ways in which social class, race, gender, culture, economics, or other extra-military factors have influenced and been influenced by the invention, R&D, diffusion, or use of weapons or other military technologies. We hope to publish articles with many times and places; in particular, we welcome articles on non-Western and pre-modern topics. We seek articles that address the roles that military technologies play in shaping and reshaping the relationships of soldiers to other soldiers; soldiers to military, political, and social institutions; and military institutions to other social institutions, most notably political and economic. We also welcome articles on historiographical or museological topics that address how military technology has been analyzed, interpreted, and understood in other fields, other cultures, and other times.

Articles for *Vulcan* must address some aspect of military technology and of social or cultural history. Excluded from our purview will be articles on the strictly technical development of particular pieces of military hardware or purely operational histories of their use. Social history of the military will not be accepted unless it obviously addresses technological matters or the author explains how his or her subject should be considered technologically relevant.

We anticipate the appearance of the first issue in spring 2010. Please send your submissions, electronically if possible, to either of the editors: Bart Hacker: hacker@si.edu or Steve Walton: saw23@psu.edu. If electronic submission is not feasible, contact one of the editors about how to proceed.