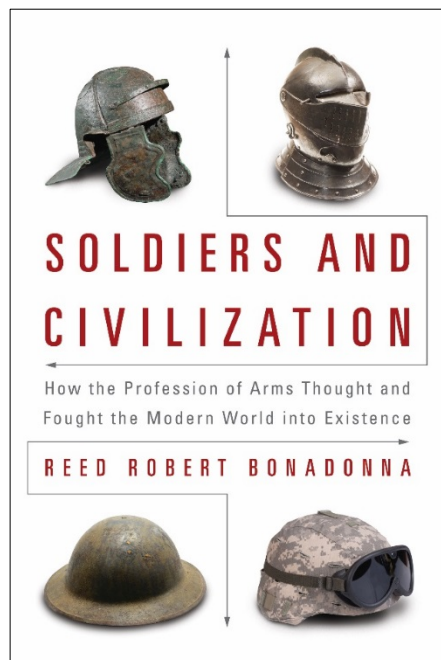




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SOLDIERS AND CIVILIZATION

How the Profession of Arms Thought and Fought the Modern World into Existence

BY REED ROBERT BONADONNA

"Soldiers and Civilization is an important book. Important because it explains the connection between professional militaries and the people in whose name those militaries fight and serve. Reed Bonadonna reminds us not only that civilization has depended on soldiers, but also that our soldiers depend on their fellow citizens to understand, value, and help preserve their professionalism."

—LT. GEN. H. R. MCMASTER, USA, author of *Dereliction of Duty: Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies That Led to Vietnam*

"This is a groundbreaking exploration of the military's contribution to knowledge and civilization. Reed Bonadonna shows his readers how, over time, soldiers have served not just to defend and destroy, but also to preserve and build. Bonadonna's work arcs from the Trojan War to the post-9/11 world, and reflects an amazing grasp of history, literature, and law. He ends with a clarion call for military education in a broad sense, education that will nurture the citizen-soldiers of the future, men and women in the mold of George C. Marshall who can meet twenty-first-century challenges to civilization. It is a call that military and civilian leaders would do well to heed." — COL. NICHOLAS REYNOLDS, USMCR (RET.), former Chair of Intelligence at the Naval War College, and Marine Corps historian

"Every decade or so someone tries to explain war using an interdisciplinary approach. These attempts end in a muddle of social scientific confusion. Not so with Reed Bonadonna's *Soldiers and Civilization*. His book is different. It's clearly written. He treats each interdisciplinary element distinctly and gives each its place in the course of human conflict. The result is a brilliant narrative that entertains but also teaches . . . rare in today's scorching realm of histories written by advocates pushing a single theme." — MAJ. GEN. ROBERT SCALES, USA (RET.), author of *Scales on War: The Future of America's Military at Risk*

"This is *not* just another book on military history. The focus is not on tactics and strategy but on the humanistic thinking of those under arms. Colonel Bonadonna presents an articulate, thought-provoking, and too often overlooked argument on how military professionals evolved and what truly makes them 'professional.' This is a great book to further the discussion on the importance of the humanities in the development of military professionals." — COL. JAY KENNEDY, USMC (RET.), former director, Humanities and Social Sciences Division, U.S. Naval Academy

When Kipling writes in “The Young British Soldier,” “I’ll sing you a soldier as fair as I may,” he reminds us that a soldier is made of the words of poetry, history, and the laws and language of his calling. The complete soldier is not only a committed war fighter, but also a contributor to the civilization that he or she serves. Drawing from military history, sociology, and other disciplines, *Soldiers and Civilization* covers the history of the military profession in the Western world from the ancient Greeks to the present day and shows how both soldiers and their civilizations have helped mold each other over time. Reed Bonadonna goes beyond traditional insights to locate the military profession in the context of both literary and cultural history, maintaining that soldiers have made an unacknowledged contribution to the theory and practice of civilization, and that they will again be called upon to do so in important ways.

Throughout history soldiers have sought instruction and inspiration. Military professionals of today must know, heed, and apply the examples and narrative of the most exemplary of their predecessors to help advance civilization into its future. However, this process can succeed only when it includes critical self-examination and a discourse with the larger society. Civilization as we know it depends upon the soldiers of our century who are wise as much as strong and brave.

Soldiers and Civilization argues that the military profession, in its broadest consideration, might be viewed as an interdisciplinary branch of the humanities, a repository of important practical and abstract knowledge on armed conflict, ethics, community, and human nature. By representing and upholding the values on which civilization is founded, true military professionals provide the stability for it to thrive and create new ideas, thereby ensuring an existential symbiosis that serves and preserves both.

REED ROBERT BONADONNA served in the U.S. Marine Corps as an infantry officer and field historian, retiring with the rank of colonel. He participated in the first Marine landings in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1982, and in Operation Iraqi Freedom-1 in 2003 and earned a PhD at Boston University. He recently retired as Director, Ethics and Character Development program at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. Colonel Bonadonna and his wife, Dr. Susan Bonadonna, MD, have three sons and reside in Larchmont, New York.

Publication date: 15 May 2017 | ISBN: 978-1-68247-067-1 | Hardcover & eBook: \$35.00 | 352 pages

At bookstores, online or direct:

In the U.S.

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