

# LOSING MILITARY SUPREMACY

THE MYOPIA OF AMERICAN STRATEGIC PLANNING



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Russian Sukhoi Su-24 makes a low pass over destroyer *USS Donald Cook* in the Black Sea, 12 April 2016.

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ANDREI MARTYANOV

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## The Myopia of American Strategic Planning

by  
**ANDREI MARTYANOV**

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### TIPSHEET

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#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ANDREI MARTYANOV is an expert on Russian military and naval issues. He was born in Baku, USSR in 1963. He graduated from the Kirov Naval Red Banner Academy and served as an officer on the ships and staff position of Soviet Coast Guard through 1990. He took part in the events in the Caucasus which led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. In mid-1990s he moved to the United States where he currently works as Laboratory Director of a commercial aerospace group. **He is a frequent blogger on the US Naval Institute Blog.**



# SYNOPSIS

*“Our competitive edge has eroded in every domain of warfare – air, land, sea, space, and cyberspace,” General Mattis said. “And it is continually eroding.”*

American exceptionalist culture has deep roots in the American founding, which even Alexis De Tocqueville observed in his seminal work in 1837. While exceptionalism is not unique to America, the intensity of their conviction and its global ramifications are. This view of its exceptionalism has led the US to grossly misinterpret—sometimes deliberately—the causative factors of key events of the past two centuries. Accordingly, the wrong conclusions have been derived, and very wrong lessons learned.

Nowhere has this been more manifest than in American military thought and its actual application of military power. Time after time the American military has failed to match lofty declarations about its superiority, producing instead a mediocre record of military accomplishments. Starting from the Korean War the United States hasn't won a single war against a technologically inferior, but mentally tough enemy. The technological dimension of American “strategy” has completely overshadowed any concern with the social, cultural, operational and even tactical requirements of military (and political) conflict.

With a new Cold War with Russia emerging, the United States enters a new period of geopolitical turbulence completely unprepared in any meaningful way—intellectually, economically, militarily or culturally—to face a reality which was hidden for the last 70+ years behind the curtain of never-ending Chalabi moments and a strategic delusion concerning Russia, whose history the US viewed through a Solzhenitsified caricature kept alive by a powerful neocon lobby, which even today dominates US policy makers' minds. This book:

- explores the dramatic difference between the Russian and US approach to warfare, which manifests itself across the whole spectrum of activities from art and the economy, to the respective national cultures;
- illustrates the fact that Russian economic, military and cultural realities and power are no longer what American elites think they are by addressing Russia's new and elevated capacities in the areas of traditional warfare as well as cyberwarfare and space; and
- studies in depth several ways in which the US can simply stumble into conflict with Russia and what must be done to avoid it.

Martyanov's former Soviet military background enables deep insight into the fundamental issues of warfare and military power as a function of national power—assessed correctly, not through the lens of Wall Street “economic” indices and a FIRE economy, but through the numbers of enclosed technological cycles and culture, much of which has been shaped in Russia by continental warfare and which is practically absent in the US.

# **ASK ANDREI!**

***Andrei Martyanov will be happy to address your questions in these areas:***

1. Very general facts of biography, including his ending up in the US
2. Military-technological topics
3. Influence of economic, technological etc. development of Russia on geopolitical reality
4. Any issue of great power balance and competition
5. Educational issues, formation of elites
6. Practically any question re: both Soviet Union and Russia's 20th century history
7. US military and economy
8. Cultural issues, formation of nation-states
9. Kremlinology
10. Russian and Soviet culture.

***Here are some specific questions you might ask:***

1. What is the real size of the Russian economy?
2. What is the difference in control of economies in the US and Russia?
3. What it takes in terms of resources to build world-class weapon systems?
4. Are Barnett's 14 points the best way to get a grip on military and economic might?
5. In what fields of military technology Russia leads the US by generation?
6. What is the future of economic liberalism in Russia?
7. Why Russia is always inclined to the real (not "Western") left?
8. What is in the foundation of the collapse of the American "Russian Studies" field?
9. What is his military-academic background?
10. Is there any future for the US a global power?
11. Can the trust between US and Russia be restored any time soon?
12. Will China be able to challenge US in the world ocean?
13. Is Russia a true Iran's ally?
14. What could be done to stop the slide towards war against Iran?

## REVIEWS

“The arrogant hubris of American exceptionalism and the myths that sustain it are subjected to devastating analysis in this long overdue book.”

—Paul Craig Roberts, [“A Book for Our Time”](#)

“Future historians may well identify Russian President Vladimir Putin’s landmark March 1 speech as the ultimate game-changer in the 21st-century New Great Game in Eurasia. The reason is minutely detailed in *Losing Military Supremacy: The Myopia of American Strategic Planning*, a new book by Russian military/naval analyst Andrei Martyanov...

Martyanov’s must-read book is the ultimate Weapon of Myth Destruction (WMD). And unlike the Saddam Hussein version, this one actually exists.”

—Pepe Escobar, [AsiaTimes](#)

“But of all the aspects of the ‘American dream’, the single most resilient one has been the myth of the US military as ‘the finest fighting force in history’. In this new book, Andrei Martyanov not only comprehensively debunks this myth, he explains step by step how this myth was created and why it is collapsing now. This is no small feat, especially in a relatively short book (225 pages) which is very well written and accessible to everyone, not just military specialists.

Martyanov takes a systematic and step-by-step approach: first, he defines military power, then he explains where the myth of US military superiority came from and how the US rewriting of the history of WWII resulted in a complete misunderstanding, especially at the top political levels, of the nature of modern warfare. He then discusses the role ideology and the Cold War played in further exacerbating the detachment of US leaders from reality. Finally, he demonstrates how a combination of delusional narcissism and outright corruption resulted in a US military capable of wasting truly phenomenal sums of money on “defense while at the same time resulting in an actual force unable to win a war against anything but a weak and defenseless enemy.....

The above summary does not do justice to Martyanov’s truly seminal book. I can only say that I consider this book as an absolutely indispensable “must read for every person in the US who loves his/her country and for every person who believes that wars, especially nuclear ones, must be avoided at all costs... “

—The Saker, [Unz.com](#)

“The cutting-edge issue of our time is whether humanity can survive America’s rage for global dominance while failing to acknowledge its declining supremacy relative to other nations. In his must read new book, titled *Losing Military Supremacy: The Myopia of American Strategic Planning*, Russian military analyst Andrei Martyanov discussed this important issue—America’s inexorable decline despite spending countless trillions of dollars to remain the dominant global superpower... Martyanov’s book provides important insights into America’s declining military supremacy, affecting this most vital issue of our time. “

—Stephen Lendman, [Global Research](#)

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

## **Introduction:**

**America's Dangerous Narcissism**

## **Chapter I:**

**The True Measurements of Military Power**

## **Chapter II:**

**The Birth of Modern American Military Mythology**

## **Chapter III:**

**The Many Misinterpretations of World War II**

## **Chapter IV:**

**American Elites' Inability to Grasp the Realities of War**

## **Chapter V:**

**Educational Deficits and Cultural Caricatures**

## **Chapter VI:**

**Threat Inflation, Ideological Capture and Doctrinal Policy Questions**

## **Chapter VII:**

**Coming to Grips with the Modern Geopolitical Realignment**

## **Chapter VIII:**

**The "Hollow Force" Specter**

## **Conclusion:**

**The Threat of a Massive American Military Miscalculation**

## **Epilogue:**

**Putin's Game-Changer: Peace or Consequences**

## EXCERPT

The coming of the revolutionary S-500 air-defense system may completely close Russia and her allies' airspace from any aerial or even ballistic threats. These developments alone completely devalue the astronomically expensive USAF front line combat aviation and its colossal investment into the very limited benefits of stealth, a euphemism for primarily "invisibility" in radio diapason, the mediocre F-35 being a prime example of the loss of common engineering, tactical and operational sense. Radiophotonics detection technologies will make all expenditures on stealth, without exception, simply a waste of money and resources. No better experts on how to waste resources exist than those sponsored by the US military-industrial complex.

The situation is no better at sea. The introduction into service in 2017 of the 3M22 Zircon hyper-sonic missile is already dramatically redefining naval warfare and makes even remote sea zones a "no-sail" zone for any US major surface combatant, especially aircraft carriers. Currently, and for the foreseeable future, no technology capable to intercept such a missile exists or will exist. The US Navy still retains a world-class submarine force, but even this force will have huge difficulties when facing the challenge of increasingly deadly and silent non-nuclear submarines which are capable, together with friendly sea and shore-based anti-submarine forces, to completely shut down their own littorals from any kind of threat. Once access through littorals and the sea and even some oceans zones that matter are shut down, as they are being now, one of the main pillars of American naval doctrine and strategy—the ability to project power—collapses. With it collapses the main pillar of American superpowerdom, or, at least, of its illusion. The late Scott Shuger formulated an American naval contradiction:

Because navies can go quietly over the horizon in ways armies can't, naval development presents a country with unique opportunities for going wrong. When a continental power like the United States disregards its natural defense barriers and builds big battle fleets, it has turned from geopolitical realities towards a troublesome kind of make-believe. This kind of navy exists only to defeat other navies that are similarly inclined. That's justifiable only if other navies like that already exist.

No carrier-centric navies, other than the US Navy, exist, nor will they exist in the nearest future since all major naval players in the world, with the exception of the US and Royal Navies, took the doctrine of distributed lethality to heart and continued to invest into serious anti-shipping capabilities across a huge variety of platforms, with the Soviet Union, and today's Russia, leading the way in the devel-

opment of deadly super- and hyper-sonic weapons. New very long-range land attack cruise missiles become very effective deterrent and power projection tools against any kind of adversary. The United States is not, as of yet, in this league and it may yet occur to many American experts that Russia's procrastination in building her own aircraft carriers is not just the result of a lack of expertise or of shipbuilding facilities, but primarily it is a result of a recognition of the dawning of the realities of modern anti-ship weapons and how they can instantly change the balance of naval power by the mere threat of their use. In fact, the future of navies is anything but a carrier-centric paradigm. This is an equivalent of a doctrinal Stalingrad, with carrier-centrism being born in 1940s and 50s not so much out of actual strategic necessities but as an instrument of institutional survival—this is not a good way to develop an actual, as required by strategic reality, military capability.

The day of reckoning is upon us. Even the staunch American nationalist, Pat Buchanan, bitterly observed: "Nobody's quaking in their boots, anymore." The United States, both willingly and not, in the last 20-plus years, through a series of badly-conceived and largely falsely-premised military adventures, exposed the dramatic limits of its military, and as a consequence geopolitical, capabilities and power, and the world took a notice. Short of nuclear exchange, the United States cannot conventionally defeat Russia or China in their immediate geographic vicinities. A military superpower—which the United States certainly still remains—which cannot defeat any other superpower is hardly a good embodiment of the superlative military terms it uses to describe itself. Constantly proclaiming itself militarily omnipotent without presenting universally accepted evidence of such omnipotence does not make a good case for such claims. This is not how things work in reality, as with anything in life—reputation, which is a first derivative of a record, matters a great deal. Spin and propaganda campaigns can go only so far and become increasingly less effective the more time passes by without presenting a real record of achievement.

The problem with the US military, however, is even deeper than that...

## This book offers deep insight into fundamental issues affecting the comparative military might of the United States and Russia.

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—THE SAKER

The intensity of Americans’ conviction of their nation’s exceptionalism has led the US to grossly misinterpret—sometimes deliberately—the causative factors of key events of the past two centuries. Accordingly, the wrong conclusions have been derived, and very wrong lessons learned. Nowhere has this been more manifest than in American military thought and its actual application of military power.

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