

# American Militarism On The Small Screen: Exploring the Dominant Role of the Military in Television Shows



## **The Influence of American Militarism on Television**

Television shows have long been a reflection of society, showcasing cultural and political trends. In recent years, one recurring motif has been the portrayal of American militarism on the small screen. From military dramas to reality shows, the military-industrial complex has made its mark in the world of entertainment.

This article dives deep into the subject and explores the dominant role of the military in popular television shows.

## The Fascination with Military Dramas

It is undeniable that military dramas have captivated audiences for decades. The intense action, heroic characters, and patriotic storylines have a magnetic effect on viewers. Shows like "NCIS," "JAG," and "The Unit" have been beloved by fans and generated significant revenue for networks.



### American Militarism on the Small Screen (Routledge Advances in Television Studies Book

4) by Stacy Takacs(1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2325 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 290 pages

X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



However, the prevalence of military dramas raises some intriguing questions. Why are these shows so popular? Is it a reflection of America's deep-rooted militarism, or is it simply the allure of high-stakes storytelling? This article examines the various factors that contribute to the appeal of military dramas and their impact on shaping public perception.

## Different Faces of American Militarism on TV

While military dramas often depict the American military in a positive light, reality shows like "Survivor: Military Edition" bring a different perspective to the table. These shows provide a glimpse into the rigorous training, physical and mental challenges, and the competitive nature of military life. By showcasing the human side of the military, these programs give viewers a more nuanced understanding of the sacrifices and struggles faced by service members.

## **The Role of Propaganda in Television**

Television has always been a powerful tool for shaping public opinion and spreading propaganda. American militarism on the small screen is not exempt from this phenomenon. Many argue that the glorification of military action in television shows perpetuates a pro-war narrative, normalizing military interventions and promoting an aggressive American foreign policy.

On the other hand, some critics argue that these shows provide a realistic portrayal of the military, showcasing the bravery and dedication of service members. They believe that portraying military action accurately is essential for maintaining national security and fostering patriotism.

## **The Impact on Society and International Relations**

The prevalence of American militarism on television cannot be underestimated. The powerful influence of media in shaping public perception and political attitudes has raised concerns about the impact of such narratives on society and international relations. This article investigates the potential consequences of widespread acceptance and consumption of military-themed shows.

From influencing recruitment numbers to shaping foreign policy debates, the presence of American militarism on the small screen has far-reaching implications. By analyzing real-world examples and empirical data, we gain

valuable insights into the complex relationship between television, militarism, and society at large.

American militarism on the small screen is a topic worth exploring and understanding. By delving into the allure of military dramas, the role of propaganda, and the impact on society and international relations, we gain a comprehensive view of this prevailing theme in television. Despite conflicting opinions, television shows continue to shape and reflect our cultural values and beliefs.

As television continues to evolve, it is crucial to critically examine the portrayal of American militarism and its potential consequences. By doing so, we contribute to a more informed and nuanced public discourse.

*This article is part of the "Routledge Advances In Television Studies" series.*



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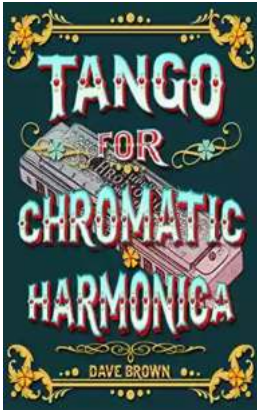
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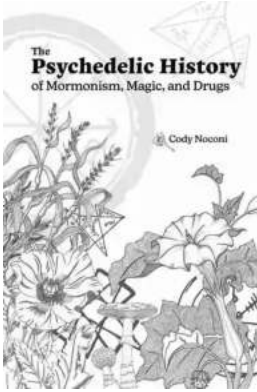
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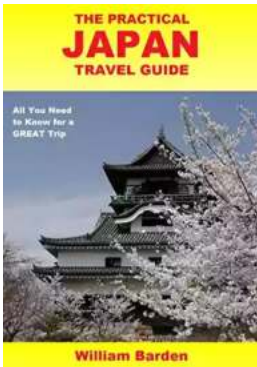
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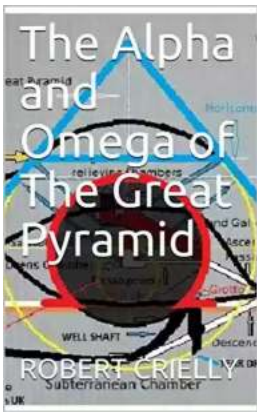
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