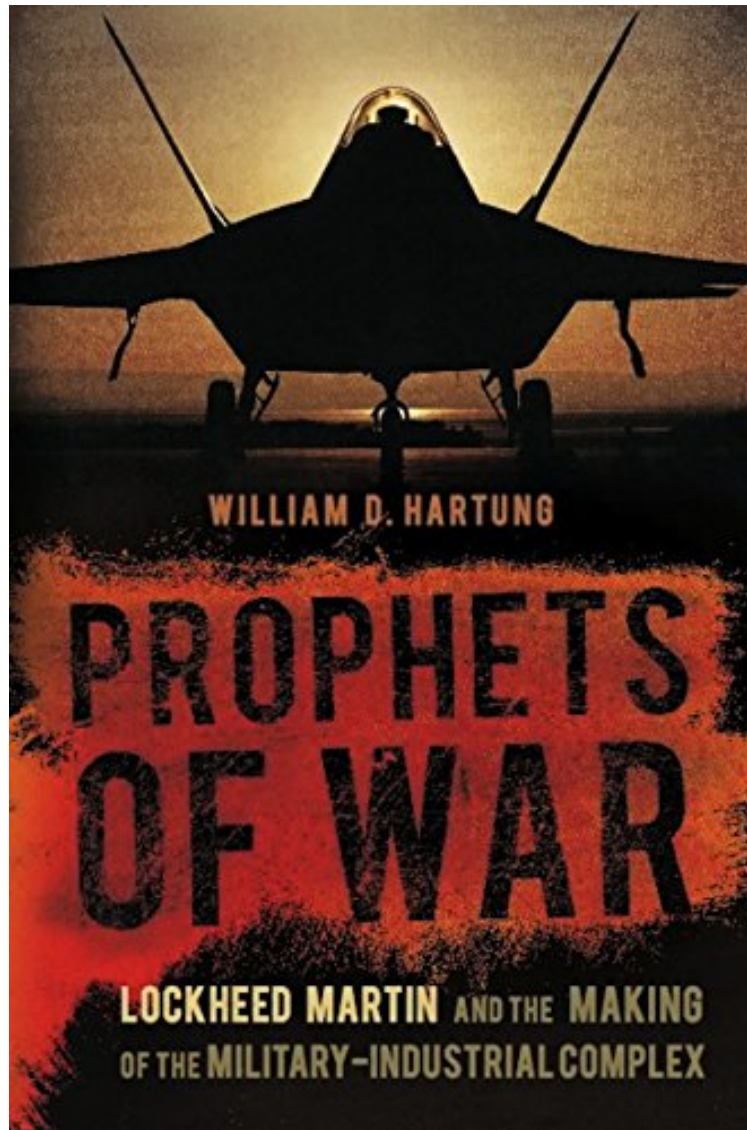


(Library ebook) Prophets of War: Lockheed Martin and the Making of the Military-Industrial Complex

Prophets of War: Lockheed Martin and the Making of the Military-Industrial Complex

William D. Hartung

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William D. Hartung : Prophets of War: Lockheed Martin and the Making of the Military-Industrial Complex before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Prophets of War: Lockheed Martin and the Making of the Military-Industrial Complex:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Government corrupts.By Ed GeheadJust finished "Prophets". Hartung is definitely an accomplished writer in the journalistic style. 250 pages of text literally flowed from start to finish. Furthermore, Hartung is an expert who has made a career of specializing in the "military industrial complex".

He obviously has an agenda but he clearly knows his facts and I (as a libertarian on guard for propaganda) sensed no attempt to distort or fabricate. The reviews are divided along ideological lines with the liberals praising the work because it fully exposes the corruption of a huge corporation and the conservatives (unfairly) giving the work 1 star because they think that the corporation has been unfairly vilified. I give the work 4 stars because, while accurate and well written, "Prophet", in the end, omits an insightful analysis of the underlying problem. What is the root of the corruption problem and what can be done to correct and avoid it??? Concluding that the answer is political and that we citizens must be informed and stay vigilant is simplistic nonsense. I think most citizens already know that there is a high level of corruption in virtually all government contracting. It simply is greater in the defense industry because that industry is the biggest. Today we are all too familiar with "too big to fail." My point is that we cannot stop "corruption" and we certainly cannot stop corruption on the scale exposed in "Prophets" This is because of the principle that "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely". The left misconstrues this principle as applying only to corporations when in fact it applies with far more force to government. The real source of our problem is that we have reached the state where our government, over the years, has ignored constitutional limitations and gradually assumed absolute power. Although there is a growing popular movement to reign in government to the limits envisioned by our constitution, it is too little and too late because that the battle has been irretrievably lost over the years. We are simply going to have to reluctantly accept growing corruption until the people are so fed up that they develop the will to revolt in an attempt to reestablish a truly limited government. All of this was foreseen by our founding fathers who were well familiar with the historical tendencies of governments to abuse power. They also foresaw that the limits they had attempted to incorporate in the constitution, in the end, would not work. They were spectacularly prescient.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Peter Loeb
This book provides the best update on what the defense industry is like today. Many thanks to W.D. Hartung.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Stellar book!
By Solarian
This explains in detail what is wrong with the American way of running the country. I would read it and weep, and then get out there and try to do something to change it.

Enthralling and explosive, *Prophets of War* is an exposeacute; of America's largest military contractor, Lockheed Martin. When President Dwight D. Eisenhower gave his famous warning about the dangers of the military industrial complex, he never would have dreamed that a company could accumulate the kind of power and influence now wielded by this behemoth company. As a full-service weapons maker, Lockheed Martin receives over 25 billion per year in Pentagon contracts. From aircraft and munitions, to the abysmal Star Wars missile defense program, to the spy satellites that the NSA has used to monitor Americans' phone calls without their knowledge, Lockheed Martin's reaches into all areas of US defense and American life. William Hartung's meticulously researched history follows the company's meteoric growth and explains how this arms industry giant has shaped US foreign policy for decades.

From Publishers Weekly
Corporate clout, military innovation, and political influence make an uneasy mix in this smart and thorough corporate history of Lockheed Martin's emergence as the nation's largest weapons contractor. Hartung (*And Weapons for All*) traces the company's rise from unimpressive military aircraft manufacturer in WWI through its emergence as a major supplier of fighters and bombers for the Allies in WWII to corporate behemoth and power player in setting American foreign policy. The author explores how deeply Lockheed's tentacles have penetrated American economic and political life, pulling the curtain back on decades of unsavory dealings: Lockheed's decision to sell airplanes to Japan in the late 1930s (they were later converted to military use); reports of widespread bribery of foreign executives and politicians; and vengeful retribution against Pentagon whistleblowers. Hartung reveals how the company's adaptability has helped it survive--and expand--even as its reputation became tarnished, and echoes President Eisenhower's argument that the only way to ensure against "military-industrial" abuses is to have "an alert and engaged citizenry." This book is a fine step in that direction. (Jan.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

From Booklist
Hartung, a frequent commentator on the relationship between government and military contractors, takes readers through the history of Lockheed Martin, a company that began humbly in 1916 and has become a "mega-firm" whose ties to the U.S. government are, at least as presented here, at best ominous and at worst downright frightening. The author, who directs the New America Foundation's Arms and Security Initiative, sounds like he has a whole arsenal of axes to grind. In his view, the story of Lockheed Martin is a story of shady foreign deals, influence peddling, massive cost overruns, price irregularities, conspiracy, bribery, and shoddy workmanship. He has very little that is approving to say about the company (which, to be sure, is a highly influential and powerful weapons maker), and some readers might wonder if there is perhaps more to the story--a more balanced version--that Hartung isn't telling. But he argues his case forcefully, and while the book is clearly written from a specific political point of view, it undeniably provides much food for thought. --David Pitt

About the Author
Bill Hartung is the director of the Arms and Security Initiative at the New America Foundation. He has worked for the Council on Economic Priorities and the World Policy Institute doing research and writing on the arms industry and the politics of defense spending. Hartung is the author of two books on the intersection between the arms industry and the shaping of U.S. foreign policy, *And Weapons for All* and *How Much Are You Making on the War, Daddy?*

ndash; A Quick and Dirty Guide to War Profiteering in the Bush Administration. Hartung has written for The New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, and The Nation, and has been interviewed by ABC News, CBS 60 Minutes, CNN, Fox News, the Lehrer Newshour, NBC Nightly News, and National Public Radio. His writing on Lockheed Martin has appeared in the Washington Post Outlook section, The Nation, the Multinational Monitor, and the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. He lives in New York City.