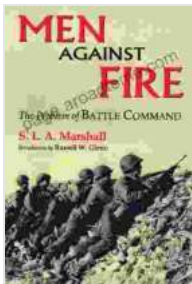


# Men Against Fire: The Problem of Battle Command in the Modern World

In *Men Against Fire*, historian John Keegan explores the challenges of battle command in the modern world. He argues that the increasing complexity of warfare has made it more difficult for commanders to control their troops and to achieve their objectives. Keegan draws on a wide range of historical examples to illustrate his argument, from the Napoleonic Wars to the Vietnam War. He shows how the rise of new technologies, the changing nature of warfare, and the increasing scale of conflict have all contributed to the problem of battle command.



## Men Against Fire: The Problem of Battle Command

by S. L. A. Marshall

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 594 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 226 pages



Keegan begins by examining the nature of battle command in the pre-industrial age. In this era, commanders relied on personal observation and direct communication to control their troops. They could see the battlefield and the enemy with their own eyes, and they could give Free Downloads directly to their subordinates. However, the rise of new technologies in the

19th century, such as the telegraph and the railroad, made it possible for commanders to control their troops from a distance. This led to a decline in personal observation and direct communication, and it made it more difficult for commanders to understand the situation on the battlefield.

The changing nature of warfare in the 20th century also contributed to the problem of battle command. The development of new weapons, such as the machine gun and the airplane, made it possible for armies to inflict massive casualties on each other. This led to a more fluid and chaotic battlefield, and it made it more difficult for commanders to control their troops.

The increasing scale of conflict in the 20th century also contributed to the problem of battle command. The world wars of the 20th century involved millions of troops and vast stretches of territory. This made it impossible for commanders to control their troops directly, and it led to a greater reliance on delegation and decentralization.

Keegan argues that the problem of battle command is a fundamental challenge for the modern military. He believes that the increasing complexity of warfare, the changing nature of warfare, and the increasing scale of conflict have all made it more difficult for commanders to control their troops and to achieve their objectives. He concludes by saying that the problem of battle command is a challenge that the military must continue to address in the 21st century.

## **The Problem of Battle Command in the Modern World**

The problem of battle command in the modern world is a complex and multifaceted one. It is a problem that has been exacerbated by the

increasing complexity of warfare, the changing nature of warfare, and the increasing scale of conflict. There is no easy solution to this problem, but it is one that the military must continue to address in the 21st century.

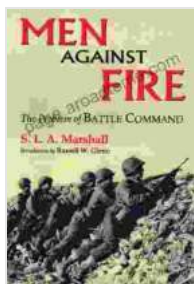
One of the most important challenges that commanders face in the modern world is the problem of information overload. The amount of information that commanders have to process has increased dramatically in recent years, and this can make it difficult for them to make sound decisions. Commanders must be able to quickly and accurately assess the situation on the battlefield, and they must be able to make decisions that will lead to the successful accomplishment of their objectives.

Another challenge that commanders face in the modern world is the problem of maintaining control over their troops. The increasing complexity of warfare has made it more difficult for commanders to control their troops directly, and this has led to a greater reliance on delegation and decentralization. Commanders must be able to trust their subordinates to make sound decisions, and they must be able to coordinate the actions of their troops in a way that will achieve their objectives.

The problem of battle command in the modern world is a serious one, but it is one that can be overcome. By understanding the challenges that commanders face, and by developing new and innovative ways to address these challenges, the military can ensure that it is prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

In *Men Against Fire*, John Keegan provides a trenchant analysis of the challenges of battle command in the modern world. He argues that the increasing complexity of warfare, the changing nature of warfare, and the

increasing scale of conflict have all made it more difficult for commanders to control their troops and to achieve their objectives. Keegan's book is a valuable resource for anyone who is interested in the history of warfare or in the challenges of leadership in the modern world.

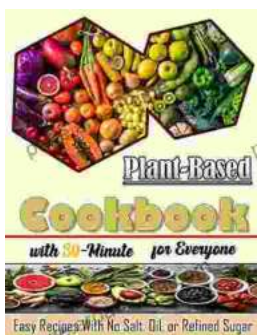


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