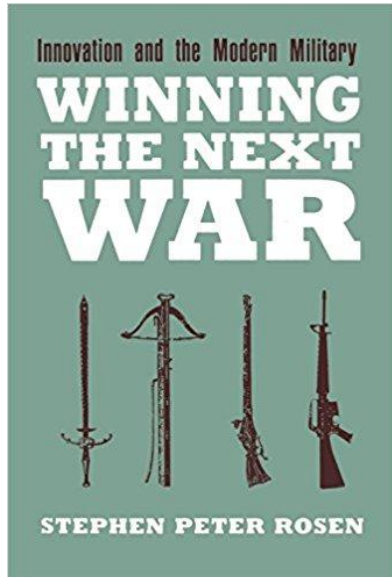
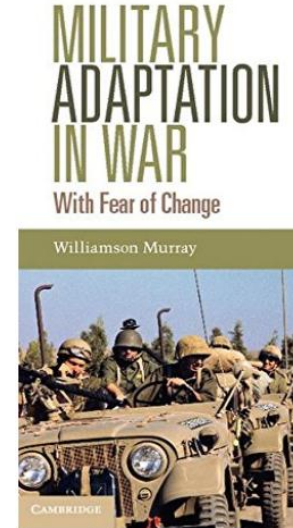
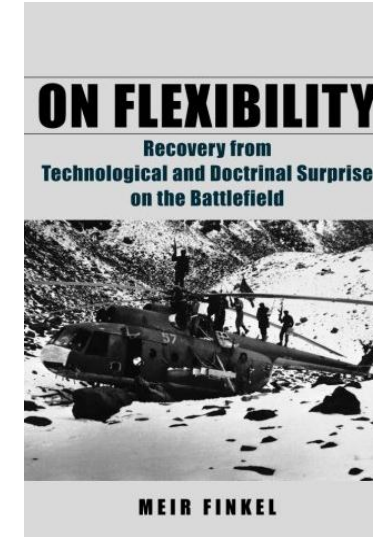
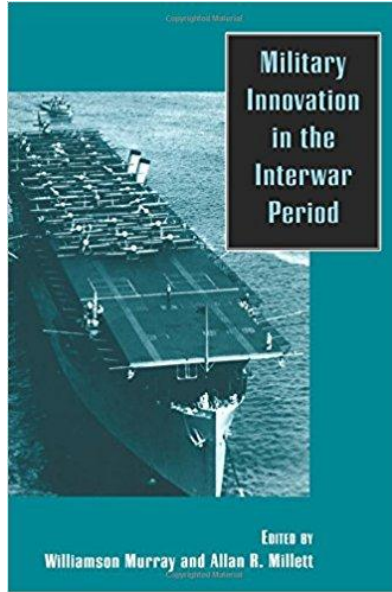
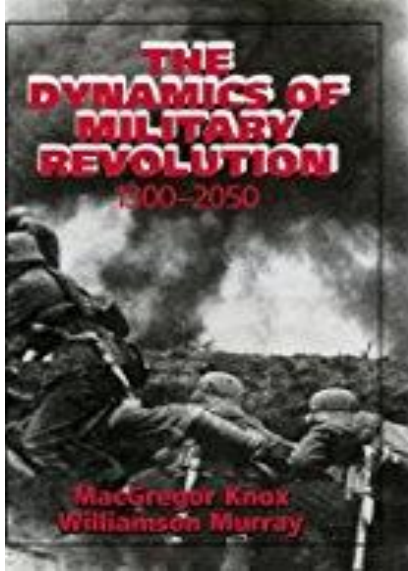
The background of the slide features a photograph of a large group of soldiers in military uniforms, standing in formation. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. A white rectangular box is centered on the slide, containing the title and author information. The title is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font, and the author's name is in a smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font.

CONSERVATISM BY CHOICE (STABILITY), INNOVATION AND ADAPTATION IN FORCE DESIGN – A REEXAMINATION

Brigadier General (res.) Dr. Meir Finkel

Innovation vs. adaptation



The military discussion over the past few years has focused on developing innovation in force design processes in peacetime, and less on adaptation during war. The discourse does not engage at all with the subject that I will develop here : conservatism by choice.

Military Adaptation
in Afghanistan

— Edited by —
THEO FARRELL, FRANS OSINGA, AND JAMES A. RUSSELL





"ACTIVE" CONSERVATISM

organizations deliberately choose not to change some of their capabilities, based on the understanding that they offer advantages on the battlefield.

The Acheulean Handaxe Technological Persistence: A Case of Preferred Cultural Conservatism?

By MEIR FINKEL¹ and RAN BARKAI¹



“Such cultural stability might be related to novelty-avoiding mechanisms or the operation of a meta-tradition that would be selected in very stable environments.” [...]
“It is important to note that the preservation of a tradition is an active mechanism and not a mere “absence of innovation” (Palmer, 2010). Tradition must be deliberately maintained, which runs counter to the expected outcome of cultural evolution, where increasing population size and drift will tend to increase cultural variability and change (Neiman, 1995; Shennan, 2000, 2001).

Palmer, C.T., 2010. Cultural traditions and the evolutionary advantages of noninnovation. In: O'Brien, M.J., Shennan, S.J. (Eds.), Innovation in Cultural Systems: Contributions from Evolutionary Anthropology. MIT Press, pp. 161-174.

Neiman, F.D., 1995. Stylistic variation in evolutionary perspective. Am. Antiq. 60, 7-36.

Shennan, S.J., 2000. Population, culture history, and the dynamics of culture change. Curr. Anthropol. 41, 811-835.

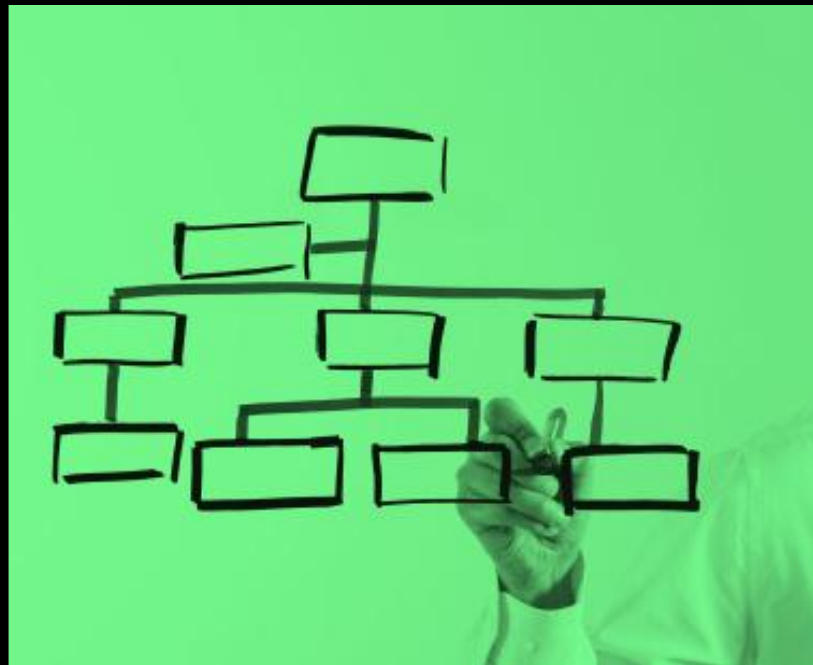


IN MILITARY HISTORY, THREE MAJOR AREAS CAN BE IDENTIFIED IN WHICH CONSERVATISM BY CHOICE TAKES PLACE :

**Manpower
development**

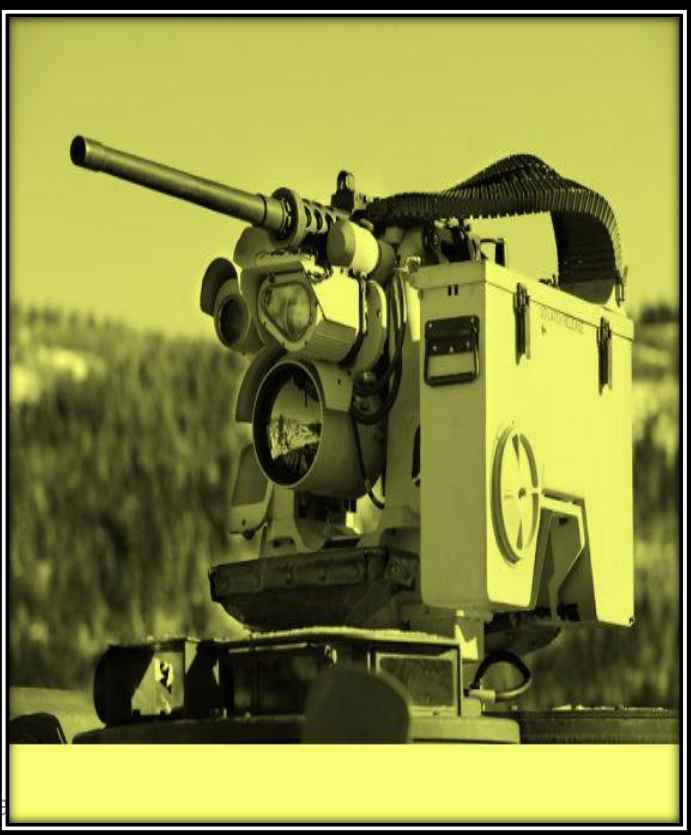
**organization of units
for war**

**Command
Philosophy**

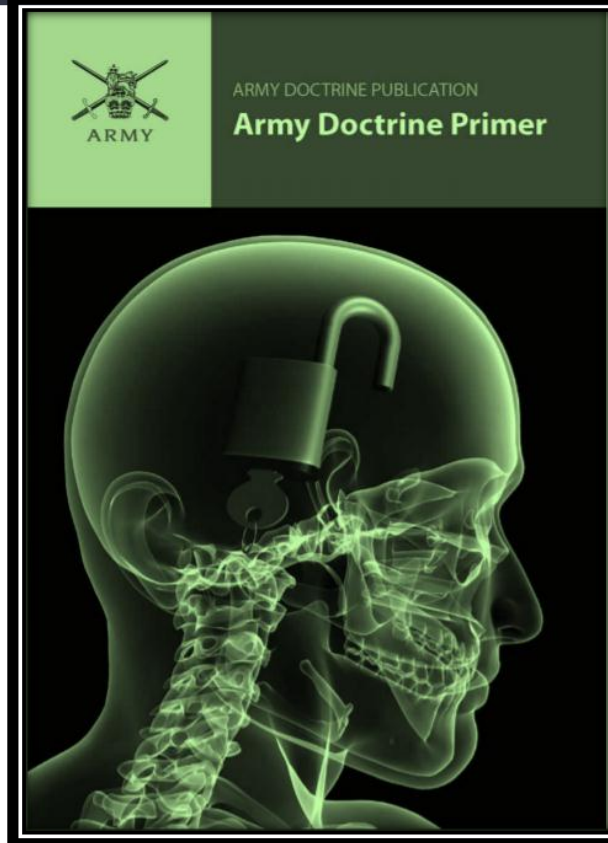


WHILE INNOVATION USUALLY TAKES PLACE IN:

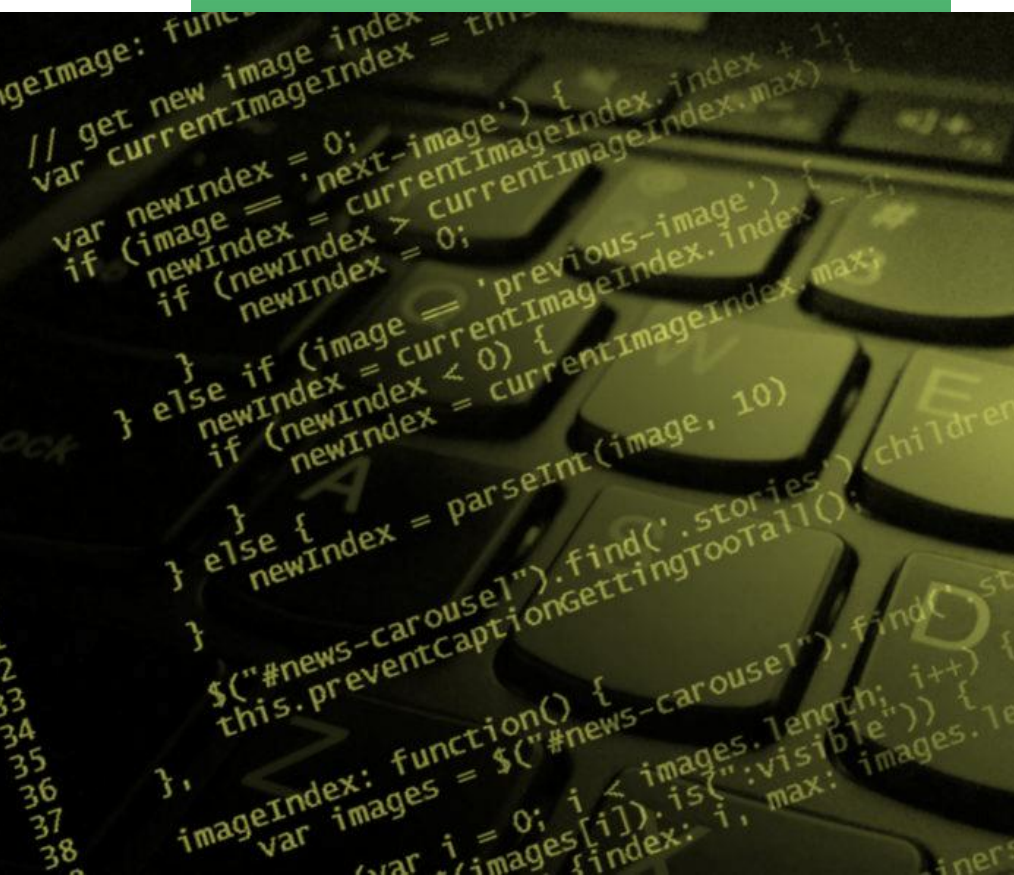
**Weapon
systems**




Doctrine



software-based technology



technologies based
on "steel"



military organizations are preserving components, unconsciously, of unit structure, command philosophy and education and training in which they have a relatively large amount of faith in their stability and continuity.

They do this so these elements serve as a stable foundation in case the innovation fails, as well as a stable basis on top of which the potential of the innovation can be fully realized.

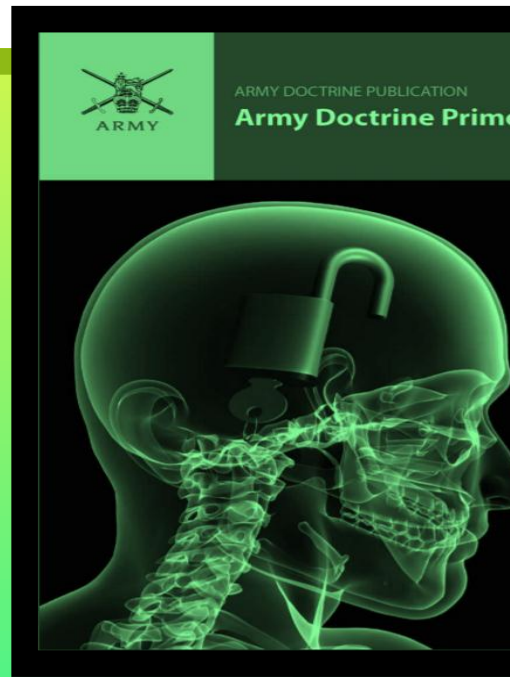
A rebalance with an eye to the future

1. Conserve it (with adjustments)

2. Integrate within it a new component, or significantly improve the current component (innovation)

3. Develop it in such a way that it will be most adaptive

Weapons Systems



Doctrine



Manpower Component



organization of units for war



Organizing Forces for Battle



SUMMARY

A large group of military personnel in uniform, many saluting, with a central white box containing the text "THANK YOU". The image is overlaid with a green geometric pattern and a dark blue border.

THANK YOU