

Michael O’Hanlon

The Brookings Institution

Director of Research, Foreign Policy Program

Specialist in U.S. Defense Policy

O’Hanlon’s Most Recent Speech at the BCFA, “The Art of War in an Age of Peace”; October 7th, 2021

<https://youtu.be/7GeZ4FKpcAo>

O’Hanlon Brookings Institution Profile Page

<https://www.brookings.edu/experts/michael-e-ohanlon/>

Brookings Foreign Policy Program Information Page; O’Hanlon is the Director of Research for this Program

<https://www.brookings.edu/about-foreign-policy/>

- Stated Goals of the Program
 - o To understand the dynamics of world affairs and the challenges they pose to the international community; and
 - o To influence policies and institutions in the United States and abroad that promote sustainable peace, security, and prosperity around the world

Brookings Strobe Talbott Center for Security, Strategy, and Technology Information Page; O’Hanlon is the Director of this Program

<https://www.brookings.edu/about-the-strobe-talbott-center-for-security-strategy-and-technology/>

- Three Overarching Themes of the Program
 - o American leadership in the 21st century: U.S. grand strategy, alliances, and the multilateral order
 - o National Security: U.S. defense policy, strategic weapons, and technology
 - o Transnational threats: nonstate actors and sub-state challenges

Recent Article Calling for Further Intervention in Ukraine; 16 January 2023

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/01/16/biden-ukraine-weapons-russia-tanks/>

Recent Article on a post-Russo-Ukrainian War Europe; December 12th 2022

<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/3786748-what-should-eurasian-security-look-like-after-the-russia-ukraine-war/>

- Necessities in Policy Making:
 - o Reassure Ukraine
 - o Deter an aggressive Russia
 - o Avoid inflammatory ideas such as Ukrainian membership In NATO that would make impossible future stability

CNBC Snippet with O’Hanlon Discussing Alternatives to Ukraine NATO Membership; March 8th, 2022

<https://www.cbc.com/video/2022/03/08/ukraine-can-find-alternatives-to-nato-members-says-michael-oahanlon.html>

O'Hanlon on the US Overhyping the Chinese Threat; December 8th, 2022

<https://youtu.be/yw1BY-Y3GzA>

Article Further Elaborating on the Chinese Military's Threat to US Security; December 2nd, 2022

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/12/02/does-the-pentagon-report-on-chinas-military-correctly-judge-the-threat/>

- Ways in Which the US has Overhyped the Chinese Threat
 - o Although a joint statement between the Russian and Chinese government prescribed that their relationship “knows no bounds,” China has not sold arms to Russia during their invasion into Ukraine.
 - o China's GDP dedication to military spending, though growing, still remains at less than 2% of GDP. This is incomparable to the US's over 3% GDP dedication to military spending.
 - o Although the PRC seeks to expand its nuclear arsenal, China will not be able to foreseeably compete with US armaments.
 - & other inflammatory statements

O'Hanlon's Most Recent Book: *Military History for the Modern Strategist*

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9780815739838/Military-History-for-the-Modern-Strategist-America's-Major-Wars-Since-1861>

- “In his latest book, ‘Military History for the Modern Strategist,’ Brookings senior fellow and U.S. defense strategy expert Michael O’Hanlon examines America’s major wars since the mid-1800s. Linking military operations, wartime objectives, and grand strategy, O’Hanlon explains each war’s main causes, major campaigns, dynamics, and outcomes conceptually and succinctly. He addresses profound questions about modern American military history and outlines three key lessons for decisionmakers, higher-level strategists, history enthusiasts, and military buffs alike. Bringing the reader into the year 2022 and Russia’s brazen and ill-fated invasion of Ukraine, O’Hanlon indeed presents military history for the modern strategist”

Reviews for *Military History for the Modern Strategist*:

- Michael O’Hanlon has devoted his career to thinking and writing about the causes, courses, and consequences of war so that future such tragedies are less likely to occur, and less devastating when they do. With *Military History for the Modern Strategist* O’Hanlon has produced a focused, consumable volume full of lessons from America’s past wars – lessons that are more apt and urgent today than at any time since the Cold War’s end. The book is an insistent reminder that it is only the knowledge, perceptions, and choices of America’s leaders, expressed in strategy, that bind the destructive activities of war to the nation’s political purpose, and to its principles. Reading this book will help the country’s leaders design those strategies with humanity and humility.
 - o **Melanie Sisson, Fellow, Strobe Talbott Center for Security, Strategy, and Technology, Brookings Institution**
- A brilliant, yet sobering overview of modern war by a uniquely qualified and thoughtful expert. Michael O’Hanlon put conflicts from the Civil War to Afghanistan

into strategic context with a concise clarity that is fascinating for veterans of past wars, and fundamental for strategists of the future. His final chapter's 'Three Lessons' should be required reading for policymakers.

- **Stanley McChrystal, former commander, International Security Assistance Force (Afghanistan), U.S. Joint Special Operations Command**