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Review of *Military Power and the Dutch Republic: War, Trade and the Balance of Power in Europe 1648-1813* by Marc Van Alphen, Jan Hoffenaar, Alen Lemmers, and Christiaan Van Der Spek

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## REVIEWS

of the manuscript in detail. Chapter 4 examines the use of French in the text and pays close attention to the role of Luket Nantron in compiling the text. Chapters 5, 6, and 7 explore the afterlife of the text. As noted, M9 was used by Tudor and Stuart historians: it was an important source text for Edward Hall's *Union of the Two Noble and Illustre Famelies of Lancastre and Yorke*, published in 1548. The chapters examine how M9 found its way into the College of Arms and consider how the text influenced Hall's work as well as later Tudor commentators such as Raphael Holinshed. Chapter 3 delves into how the practice of warfare is depicted in the text. The text of M9 bears close comparison with other contemporary chronicles: although grand strategy, tactics, and logistics receive passing mention, particular attention is devoted to the idea of courage, both individual and collective. In addition, the text has a strong nationalistic tone whereby the English are, unsurprisingly, portrayed in a largely positive light. Intriguingly, unlike other chronicles, M9 has little to say on the growing importance of gunpowder – in fact, the authors of the manuscript had nothing but contempt for these weapons!

Overall, this is a hugely impressive piece of textual scholarship and should attract a readership from several different audiences. On an obvious level, this edition will be essential reading to anyone interested in the Lancastrian phase of the Hundred Years War. It should also be an important source for scholars working on Franco-Scottish military links and will also appeal to students of medieval warfare more generally. On another level, this book will also be of interest to literary and textual scholars and should also be of interest to historians of emotion.

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**Marc Van Alphen, Jan Hoffenaar, Alen Lemmers, and Christiaan Van Der Spek, *Military Power and the Dutch Republic: War, Trade and the Balance of Power in Europe 1648-1813*, translated by Paul Arblaster & Lee Preedy. Leiden: Leiden University Press, 2021. 549 pp. full colour + 17 Maps. ISBN: 978-9087283650 (hardback). Price €89.00.**

This book has been published in co-operation with the Netherlands Institute of Military History and was first published Dutch in 2019 as *Krijgsmacht en handelsgeest*.

*Om het machtsevenwicht in Europa (1648-1813)*.<sup>1</sup> The work is a welcome addition to the English canon on the subject. This is a very impressive large format book, filled with full colour maps, illustrations, and images. The book is divided into two sections. The first is chronological and covers Political-Military Operations 1648-1813 with four chapters covering Looking Seaward (1648-1689), Facing Territorial Threats (1649-1748), The Republic as a Second-Class Power (1748-1795), and The Gradual Loss of Independence (1795-1813). The second section is thematic, Organisation, Finances, Tactics, Personnel and Society 1648-1813, with a further four chapters on Organisation and Finances, Military Action, Soldiers and Sailors, and Civilians and the Military. Although each of the chapters has a different author, the work has a coherent structure and feel which is both easy to read from cover to cover and also to 'dip into' for specific information. There is also an extensive bibliography along with a detailed index.

The first section gives a detailed account of military interventions and conflicts of the Dutch army and navy. As well as covering the Anglo-Dutch Wars and the Dutch involvement in the Glorious Revolution the first chapter covers less well wars such as the Münster War of 1665-66. Due to the period of the book, individual engagements are covered in what could be described as extended overviews, but the authors do cover all the salient points. The second chapter covers almost 60 years from the Nine Years War to the War of the Austrian Succession. The third chapter covers the period between 1748 and 1795 where the power and prestige waned. This chapter highlights one of the main strengths of this volume, the detail of the Dutch republic when not at its height or engaged. It covers well-known wars and engagements including anti-corsair patrols by the Dutch navy in the late 1770s as well as the Fourth Anglo-Dutch War. The last chapter looks at the period between 1795 and 1813 covering the limitations of Dutch control over the events of the period and the effectiveness of the Dutch military in action. As with all the other chapters, the inclusion of maps, illustrations, and images successfully add to the text and the readers experience.

The second, thematic, section starts with looking into the organisation and finances of the Dutch military system (chapter 5) and goes into detail regarding recruitment, pay, fleet construction, and naval recruitment. The inclusion of tables allows for the comparison of information in a clear format. It shows the strengths and weaknesses of the republic as a fiscal-military state and while there are works that cover this in greater depth (Pepijn Brandon, *War, Capital, and the Dutch State 1588-1795*, 2015), this chapter holds a great deal of information. Chapter 6, military action, covers details of logistics, military and naval technology as well as information on sieges and

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<sup>1</sup>Marc van Alphen, Jan Hoffenaar, Alan Lemmers and Christiaan van der Spek, *Krijgsmacht en handelsgeest. Om het machtsevenwicht in Europa (1648-1813)*, (Uitgever: Boom Amsterdam, 2019)

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fortifications. It also covers information of unit sizes, leadership and troop quality. Chapter seven covers the experience of soldiers and sailors and has excellent sections on backgrounds and the motivation both officers and common soldiers and sailors. The chapter goes into the detail of both life at sea for common sailors as well garrison life for soldiers. Chapter eight covers the relations between civilian society and the military, making the valid point that the military does not operate within a vacuum. The chapter opens up with details of the criminality of soldiers, but also the numbers of soldiers marrying into the civilian population. The chapter confirms that army and navy had a large presence in large parts of the country and had significant impact on local communities and industry.

The format of this book works exceedingly well and results in an impressive usable text that will be of use to anyone interested in the military history of the Netherlands between 1648 and 1813. Where this book excels is in its use of Dutch sources that are not normally available to non-Dutch speakers. The authors and translators need to be commended for producing an informative work that would benefit both military and social historians

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**Heather Jones, *For King and Country: The British Monarchy and the First World War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021. Xiii + 576pp. ISBN 978-1108429368 (hardback). Price £29.99.**

In this very impressive work Heather Jones examines the ‘social and cultural functions’ of the British monarchy during the Great War. One function, performed especially in the events leading up to the war, was to provide a (sometimes less than ideal) channel of communication between the British government and other European states. During the first two years of the conflict, the Crown’s major function was to support military mobilization by encouraging the voluntary enlistment of soldiers and by strengthening their resolve and courage. At the same time, and increasingly over the course of the war, the monarchy was used as a source of motivation for the unprecedented war participation of the wider civilian British population. In the final years of the war and subsequently, the socially constructed role of the king became that of conciliator – sharing the collective grief that consumed the population and holding the country