

# WINNING WESTEROS

How Game of Thrones Explains Modern  
Military Conflict

EDITED BY MAX BROOKS,

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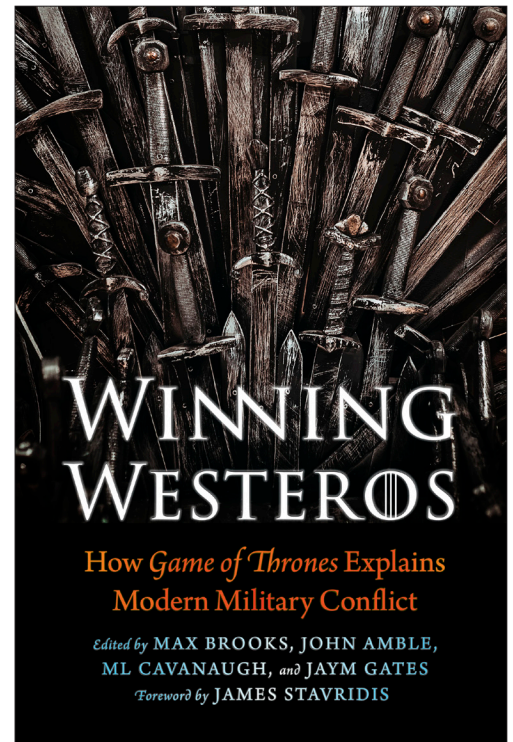
JAYM GATES

FOREWORD BY JAMES STAVRIDIS

Set in the fictitious world of Westeros, the hit television series *Game of Thrones* chronicles the bitter and violent struggle between the realm's noble dynasties for control of the Seven Kingdoms. But this beloved fantasy drama has just as much to say about the successful strategies and real-life warfare waged in our own time and place. *Winning Westeros* brings together more than thirty of today's top military and strategic experts, including generals and admirals, policy advisors, counterinsurgency tacticians, science fiction and fantasy writers, and ground-level military officers to explain the strategy and art of war by way of the *Game of Thrones* saga.

Each chapter of *Winning Westeros* provides a relatable, outside-the-box way to simplify and clarify the complexities of modern military conflict. A chapter on the doomed butcher's boy whom Arya Stark befriends by *World War Z* author Max Brooks poignantly reminds us of the cruel fate that civilians face during times of war. Another chapter on Jaqen H'ghar and the faceless men of Bravos explores the pivotal roles that stealth and intelligence play in battle. Whether considering the diplomatic prowess of Tyrion Lannister, the defiant leadership style of Daenerys Targaryen, the Battle of the Bastards and the importance of reserves, Brienne of Tarth and the increased role of women in combat, or dragons as weapons of mass destruction, *Winning Westeros* gives fans of *Game of Thrones* and aspiring military minds alike an inspiring and entertaining means of understanding the many facets of modern warfare. It is a book as captivating and enthralling as *Game of Thrones* itself.

**Max Brooks** is a writer, public speaker, nonresident fellow at the Modern War Institute at West Point, and nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council. He is the author of *World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War* and *The Harlem Hellfighters*, among other works. Brooks, and the other coeditors of this book, edited *Strategy Strikes Back: How Star Wars Explains Modern Military Conflict* (Potomac Books, 2018). **John Amble** is the editorial director at the Modern War Institute and a military intelligence officer in the U.S. Army Reserve. **ML Cavanaugh** is a nonresident fellow at the Modern War Institute and a U.S. Army strategist with global experience. His writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *USA Today*, among other publications. **Jaym Gates** is an acquiring editor for Nisaba Press and Falstaff Books, as well as a freelance editor and author. She is the coeditor of *War Stories: New Military Science Fiction*.



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*"Winning Westeros makes understanding military history and strategy accessible and fun. These incisive and creative essays help readers think clearly about diplomacy, conflict, warfare, and the range of complex competitions that influence our security and prosperity today."—Lt. Gen. (Ret.) H. R. McMaster, former national security advisor and author of Dereliction of Duty*

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