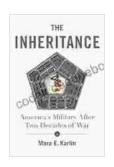
### **America's Military After Two Decades of War**

The United States has been at war in Afghanistan for nearly 20 years, and in Iraq for over 15 years. These wars have had a profound impact on the American military, both in terms of its size and its composition.

The number of active duty troops has increased significantly since the beginning of the wars. In 1999, there were just over 450,000 active duty troops. Today, there are over 1.3 million. This increase is due in part to the need to replace troops who have been killed or injured in combat, as well as to meet the demands of the ongoing wars.



#### The Inheritance: America's Military After Two Decades

of War by Mara E. Karlin

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.4 out of 5 Language : English File size : 5009 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled : Enabled X-Ray Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 322 pages

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The composition of the military has also changed significantly since the beginning of the wars. In 1999, women made up just 15% of the active duty

force. Today, they make up over 20%. Additionally, the military has become more diverse in terms of race and ethnicity. In 1999, just 12% of the active duty force was African American. Today, that number is over 20%.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have also had a significant impact on the training and readiness of the military. In the past, the military focused on preparing for large-scale conventional wars. However, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have shown that the military needs to be able to adapt to a wide range of threats, including insurgencies, terrorism, and cyber attacks.

The military has made a number of changes in its training and readiness programs in response to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. These changes include increasing the amount of time spent on training for counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations, and developing new technologies to detect and defeat threats.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have also had a significant impact on the morale of the military. In the early years of the wars, morale was high. However, as the wars dragged on, morale began to decline. This decline was due in part to the high number of casualties, the long deployments, and the lack of clear progress in achieving the goals of the wars.

The military has taken a number of steps to improve morale, including providing more support for troops and their families, and increasing the number of mental health services available to troops. These steps have helped to improve morale, but it is still below the levels seen in the early years of the wars.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have had a profound impact on the American military. The military has increased in size, become more diverse, and changed its training and readiness programs. The wars have also had a significant impact on the morale of the military. The military is still facing challenges, but it has made significant progress in adapting to the demands of the 21st century.

#### The Future of the American Military

The future of the American military is uncertain. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have ended, but the United States continues to face a wide range of threats, including terrorism, cyber attacks, and nuclear proliferation. The military is currently in the process of adapting to these new threats, and it is unclear what the future holds.

One possibility is that the military will continue to shrink in size. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have shown that the United States does not need a large standing army to meet the threats it faces. Additionally, the cost of maintaining a large military is high, and the United States is facing a number of budget constraints.

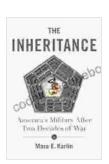
Another possibility is that the military will continue to change in composition. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have shown that the military needs to be more diverse and more adaptable to a wide range of threats. The military is currently working to increase the number of women and minorities in its ranks, and it is also developing new technologies to detect and defeat threats.

It is also possible that the military will become more focused on its role as a global power. The United States has a number of allies and partners

around the world, and the military is increasingly being called upon to support these allies and partners. The military is currently working to strengthen its relationships with these allies and partners, and it is also developing new capabilities to deter and defeat threats to the global order.

The future of the American military is uncertain. However, one thing is clear: the military will continue to play a vital role in protecting the United States and its interests around the world.

The United States military has undergone a significant transformation over the past two decades. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have had a profound impact on the size, composition, training, readiness, and morale of the military. The military is still facing challenges, but it has made significant progress in adapting to the demands of the 21st century. The future of the military is uncertain, but one thing is clear: the military will continue to play a vital role in protecting the United States and its interests around the world.



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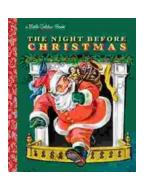
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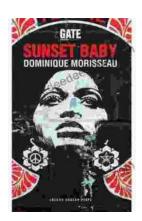
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