



MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY PRESS

Call for Submissions Journal of Advanced Military Studies

MCUP publishes JAMS on topics of concern to the Marine Corps and the Department of Defense through the lens of various disciplines, including international relations, political science, security studies, and political economics.

Our Spring 2026 issue will have a broadly construed theme: **Will to Fight**

While many nations and nonstate groups focus on the superiority of their weapons; the numerical advantages of their armies, navies, and air forces; and the ability to fund expensive expeditionary wars, one element is just as important for a fighting force: the will to fight. The will to fight often determines success or failure in war. At the same time, it is hard to measure within military organizations and societies themselves. Analyzing ways to leverage the will to fight among military organizations and the nations and societies that feed and support them is essential to military success on the battlefield and in the mind.

The complexities and importance of the will to fight have been displayed in recent conflicts, such as Afghanistan, in particular the failure of Afghan Security Forces to fight in sufficient numbers, leading to their rapid defeat by the Taliban.

The advantage that a superior will to fight gives a nation has also been displayed with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While Russia has displayed a poor will to fight, Ukraine has displayed the opposite: a strong will to fight that has led to victories despite the small size of the military and its lack of weapons and materiel compared to Russia. Another prescient example can be seen in the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which captured territories and defeated numerically superior fighting forces of nation-states such as Syria and Iraq.

But what is the will to fight, and how can it be applied? This issue of JAMS encourages authors to analyze and discuss what causes a group or nation to demonstrate a superior will to fight or a lack thereof. What factors lead to these different circumstances in fighting forces and civilian populations in war-torn areas? How does the United States, its allies, and its adversaries support the will to fight within their fighting forces and their civilian populations? Conversely, what leads to a lack of will to fight among nations and nonstate actors? These factors can be explored through both contemporary and historical lenses to better understand what many armed forces consider the most important factor in prosecuting wars.

JAMS is a peer-reviewed journal on the Commandant's Professional Reading List, and submissions should be 4,000–10,000 words, footnoted, and formatted according to *Chicago Manual of Style* (17th edition). Junior faculty and advanced graduate students are encouraged to submit. MCUP is also looking for book reviewers and historiographers from international studies, political science, and contemporary history fields. To receive a copy of the journal or to discuss an article idea or book review, please contact MCU_Press@usmcu.edu.

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