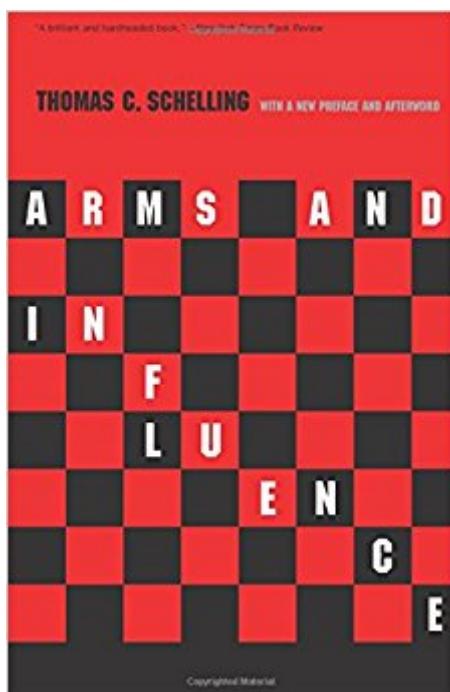


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# Arms And Influence: With A New Preface And Afterword (The Henry L. Stimson Lectures Series)



## Synopsis

Traditionally, Americans have viewed war as an alternative to diplomacy, and military strategy as the science of victory. Today, however, in our world of nuclear weapons, military power is not so much exercised as threatened. It is, Mr. Schelling says, bargaining power, and the exploitation of this power, for good or evil, to preserve peace or to threaten war, is diplomacy—the diplomacy of violence. The author concentrates in this book on the way in which military capabilities—real or imagined—are used, skillfully or clumsily, as bargaining power. He sees the steps taken by the U.S. during the Berlin and Cuban crises as not merely preparations for engagement, but as signals to an enemy, with reports from the adversary's own military intelligence as our most important diplomatic communications. Even the bombing of North Vietnam, Mr. Schelling points out, is as much coercive as tactical, aimed at decisions as much as bridges. He carries forward the analysis so brilliantly begun in his earlier *The Strategy of Conflict* (1960) and *Strategy and Arms Control* (with Morton Halperin, 1961), and makes a significant contribution to the growing literature on modern war and diplomacy. Stimson Lectures. Mr. Schelling is professor of economics at Harvard and acting director of Harvard's Center for International Affairs. "An exemplary text on the interplay of national purpose and military force."—Book Week. "A grim but carefully reasoned and coldly analytical book. . . . One of the most frightening previews which this reviewer has ever seen of the roads that lie just ahead in warfare."—Los Angeles Times. "A brilliant and hardheaded book. It will frighten those who prefer not to dwell on the unthinkable and infuriate those who have taken refuge in the stereotypes and moral attitudinizing."—New York Times Book Review.

## Book Information

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"This is a brilliant and hardheaded book. It will frighten those who prefer not to dwell on the unthinkable and infuriate those who have taken refuge in stereotypes and moral attitudinizing." —Gordon A. Craig, *New York Times Book Review*"An exemplary text on the interplay of national purpose and military force." —Eric Larrabee, *Book Week*"Well worth reading and there will be few who do so that do not find an idea or line of inquiry emerging in their own later thinking that owes its inspiration to Professor Schelling's lively analysis." —American Political Science Review"Of great value especially to people who are relative newcomers to the field . . . it has, like everything of Schelling's, some quite novel and original ideas." —Bernard Brodie"Extends his classic *Strategy of Conflict* to provide timely, timeless guidance for statecraft." —Graham Allison, author of *Nuclear Terrorism: the Ultimate Preventable Catastrophe*"Tom Schelling is the most significant nuclear strategist of the past half-century. Arms and Influence was essential reading for any serious student of the subject throughout the Cold War. With his new preface and foreword, Schelling demonstrates that in a world facing the threat of nuclear terrorism and belligerent states such as North Korea and Iran, his ideas and examples are vital if we are to continue 'the tradition of non-use' of these ultimate weapons of devastation." —Michael Nacht, University of California, Berkeley"Tom Schelling helped shape the way we think about contemporary strategy and nuclear weapons. This important book demonstrates his originality, range, and rigor." —Lawrence Freedman, King's College London

Thomas C. Schelling is Distinguished University Professor, Department of Economics and School of Public Affairs, University of Maryland and Lucius N. Littauer Professor of Political Economy, Emeritus, Harvard University. He is co-recipient of the 2005 Nobel Prize in Economics. Â

While much of the book revolves around US Soviet nuclear policy the ideas and concepts of how nations interacts remains valid. This book should be in every decision makers library.

The author has a vast knowledge of arms control, limitations and the power of the atom. A difficult read for me but a very impressive book.

Mandatory for a lecture course, but overall interesting material. Fast shipping and great condition.

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This book was one of the required readings for a class I am currently taking. The author is a Nobel Prize winner for his contributions to game-theory analysis and this book is considered to be one of the classics on nuclear strategy. It's not hard to see why. While many books on nuclear deterrence and strategy go into the different policies and can get policy wonky, this book takes an almost philosophical approach to the questions that nuclear strategy and deterrence pose. Indeed, many of the thoughts that Mr. Schelling has apply just as much to conventional war as to nuclear war as deterrence, compellence, and just the threat of violence can be used to achieve national goals. It is fascinating. It is also incredibly ponderous. At times it feels like Mr. Schelling just recorded some thoughts on a tape recorder and had someone transcribe them into book as topics are tackled without any apparent rhyme or reason. And considering that one or two of his chapters are 60+ pages long, it can be difficult to track his thoughts. Still, this is a genuinely thought provoking book that, in spite of the end of the Cold War, has not lost its relevancy and, indeed, will not until nuclear weapons are abolished or they are used once again in war.

Recently I ordered a Chinese translation of this book from Mainland China, but it was translated according to the 1966 edition. This English edition has a new preface and afterword by the author, thus updating the book. The book is still worth reading today, as North Korea has recently held a nuclear bomb test and it reminds us that nuclear threat is still with us. Mr. Schelling's analysis helps us to understand the delicate situation today.

Although a classic in the field (political sciences), some parts and opinions expressed in it are no longer valid or up to date.

Much of the information already known to me...

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