



Engineering and War: Militarism, Ethics, Institutions, Alternatives (Synthesis Lectures on Engineer)

Ethan Blue, Michael Levine, Dean Nieuwsma

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This book investigates the close connections between engineering and war, broadly understood, and the conceptual and structural barriers that face those who would seek to loosen those connections. It shows how military institutions and interests have long influenced engineering education, research, and practice and how they continue to shape the field in the present. The book also provides a generalized framework for responding to these influences useful to students and scholars of engineering, as well as reflective practitioners. The analysis draws on philosophy, history, critical theory, and technology studies to understand the connections between engineering and war and how they shape our very understandings of what engineering is and what it might be. After providing a review of diverse dimensions of engineering itself, the analysis shifts to different dimensions of the connections between engineering and war. First, it considers the ethics of war generally and then explores questions of integrity for engineering practitioners facing career decisions relating to war. Next, it considers the historical rise of the military-industrial-academic complex, especially from World War II to the present. Finally, it considers a range of responses to the militarization of engineering from those who seek to unsettle the status quo. Only by confronting the ethical, historical, and political consequences of engineering for warfare, this book argues, can engineering be sensibly reimagined.

Table of Contents: Preface / Acknowledgments / The Close Alignment of Engineering and Warfare / The Ethics of War / Engineering Integrity / Historical Entwinements, From Colonial Conflicts to Cold War / Historical Entwinements, Post-Cold War / Responding to Militarism in Engineering / Conclusion: Facing the Entwinement of Engineering and War / Additional Resources / References / Author Biographies

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