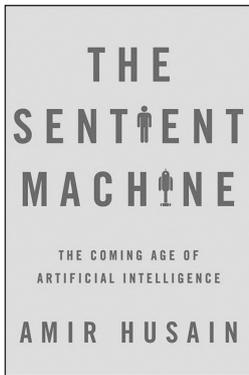


the subject of state power. The book is a treasure trove of information for academics and scholars to debate and advance. Practitioners, scholars, and students of international relations, strategic studies, economics, political science, state diplomacy, government policy, and military professionals will find this book a most interesting read and well worthy of their time. **IAJ**



**The Sentient Machine:
The Coming Age of Artificial Intelligence**

Amir Husain

Scribner: New York, New York, 2017, 214 pp.

Reviewed by Chaplain (Maj.) Marlon W. Brown
U.S. Army, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

In a time in which technology both excites and frightens, *The Sentient Machine* is a useful primer for anyone seeking a thorough explanation of the current and future applications of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies. Amir Husain approaches the topic as a true believer in AI's dominant future. As a computer scientist, technologist, and inventor holding two dozen patents, Husain speaks from practical experience and personal passion. He convinces that AI is progress that we must embrace.

The work is organized in three major parts. The first is an effort to clearly define the technology of artificial intelligence for a lay reader. Knowing the term is thrown around exhaustively and often carelessly, Husain helps the reader clearly define the technology and differentiate between artificial narrow intelligence, like Apple's Siri, and artificial generalized intelligence, a coming technology that combines intention and self-awareness. He follows with coverage of current and impending applications of AI in such diverse fields as healthcare, finance, and—importantly—warfare. The final part concludes the work with a focus on philosophical considerations surrounding the future birth of sentient machines. The book clearly proclaims that AI is both already here and quickly approaching.

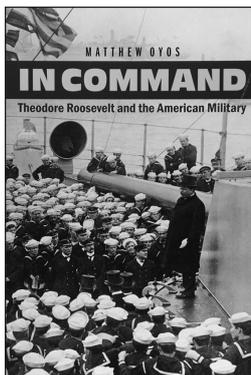
Husain packs his book with significant insights for anyone interested in AI's impact on national security. Information about AI's importance in everything from physical security to cyber security dominates the middle part of the book. An entire chapter is dedicated to "Warfare and AI" in which the author celebrates a future war when "human decision-making is almost entirely absent from the observe-orient-decide-act loop." He exhorts the military minded reader to embrace AI instead of ignoring it. Husain believes the U.S. must develop, work with, and trust the technology, recognizing that adversaries will forever exploit it for their interests even if we do not.

While technical subjects can often be daunting for casual readers, Husain tones down the technicalities for the benefit of a popular audience. He illustrates many of his points with welcome references to pop-culture, ancient myth, and world religion. Illustrations from the world of *Star Trek*

may be predictable, but they are still effective. The author doesn't limit himself to the sci-fi stalwart but also happily expounds upon other pop cultural representations, like Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein*, and more recent fare, like the film *Her*.

On several occasions, ancient myth and sacred texts are referenced to connect the reader to commonly held ideas about human existence and creation. Such philosophical issues are on grand display in the final part as he attempts to persuade the reader that we should separate our sense of human purpose from our economic productivity and evolve to the fundamental purpose of gaining knowledge. It is in this final part that the author lacks credible expertise. Husain demonstrates excellence when theorizing about the future but falls flat when channeling the philosopher or theologian. It is hard not to cringe when, in the final sentence before the epilogue, he proclaims, "Let there be AI . . ."

Ultimately, Husain provides an honest effort at fully educating readers on an important subject. In a culture widely impacted by the idea of an AI caused dystopian future, a la *The Terminator*, it is no wonder that many are genuinely uneasy, if not fearful, of both narrow AI and a future sentient machine. Husain admits the pervasive concern held by many, to include some of the technological elite. He counters with a hopeful approach to the subject that is both comforting and persuasive. **IAJ**



**In Command:
Theodore Roosevelt and the American Military**
Matthew Oyos

Potomac Books: University of Nebraska Press, 2018, 456 pp.

Reviewed by Col. Todd Schmidt
*Military Research Fellow, Arthur D. Simons Center for
Interagency Cooperation, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas*

Biographies of presidents and studies on presidential leadership abound. Few catch the attention and imagination of the public or academia. Dr. Matthew Oyos, Professor of History at Radford University, has captured the attention of both audiences, providing a focused investigation and biography of President Theodore Roosevelt (T.R.) that not only treads new ground, but reveals a noteworthy genesis of change in American culture and civil-military relations that military professionals would be advised to read.

Oyos takes a research agenda that began at The Ohio State University with a 1993 two-volume doctoral dissertation chaired by renowned military historian Dr. Allan Millet and develops it into an immensely interesting and enlightening study that is justifiably recommended reading for today's generation of military officers. Oyos, a military historian by trade, focuses his research on examining the interplay of war and society and how war influences the course of human history. With this