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Social & Behavioral Sciences \ Political Science \ International Relations

Rid, Thomas. **War 2.0: irregular warfare in the information age**, by Thomas Rid and Marc Hecker. Praeger Security International, 2009. 280p bibl index afp; ISBN

[9780313364709](#), \$49.95. Reviewed in 2010feb CHOICE.

This is an interesting and provocative work. The title, which to some may be misleading, is meant to distinguish war 2.0 from war 1.0. The latter is a more traditional type of warfare, wherein armies confronted one another without the benefit or detriment of the media, as in WW I and WW II as well as the Korean Conflict. During those conflicts the media's access to military operations was very limited, and their reports were subject to censorship. However, this changed during the Vietnam War. Media reporters were granted greater leeway and access to military operations. But, as the authors point out, the course of the war was dramatically altered by the Tet Offensive. The northern forces lost the battles but they won the media coverage, which had a devastating effect on the US political will to continue. The media has brought about major changes in combat operations, both conducted and perceived. It is interesting to note that, as Rid (Johns Hopkins Univ.) and Hecker (Institut Français des Relations Internationales, France) point out, the Marine Corps has been the most flexible and adaptive to media presence. This is a well written and researched piece. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Graduate, research, and professional collections. – *A. C. Tuttle, emeritus, University of Nevada, Las Vegas*