

January Perspectives Lecture--A Requiem for American Counterinsurgency

A Requiem for American Counterinsurgency: Retired Col. Gian Gentile Assesses the American Strategy in Iraq and Afghanistan

In 2008, now-retired Col. Gian Gentile of the U.S. Army discussed the discord amongst military strategists, analysts, and academics in their philosophies regarding counterinsurgency (COIN) doctrine and its effectiveness in accomplishing the U.S.'s goals in Afghanistan in an article in the *World Politics Review*, "Misreading the Surge." Since then, Col. Gentile has been a vocal opponent of the United States military's approach to COIN.

As part of its Perspectives in Military History Lecture Series, the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, Pa. is proud to present a lecture from retired Col. Gentile entitled, "A Requiem for American Counterinsurgency." The lecture will begin at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014. Col. Gentile's books will be on sale, and the Army Heritage Foundation will be holding a book sale prior to the event.

When failure rears its ugly head, tough decisions must be made. In war, that means accepting defeat or trying a new strategy. In response to insurgencies, the U.S. Military's historical reaction has been to implement counterinsurgencies using a wide array of strategies and tactics. However, the benefits of the military's use of counterinsurgency (COIN) efforts are widely debatable.

In his new book, [Wrong Turn: America's Deadly Embrace of Counterinsurgency](#), Gentile explores the dissent surrounding COIN doctrine. Gentile, using his personal experiences as a battalion commander in Iraq, coupled with his research into historical counterinsurgency efforts, provides a summation of his historical findings and evaluates the success of current efforts in Afghanistan. In this lecture, Gentile will be brutally honest in his assessment and will provide critical analysis of COIN policy. The lecture will also highlight his historical findings regarding COIN doctrine and how history can help with the analysis and application of current military operations.

Gentile is the Senior Historian for the Rand Corporation and recently retired from the U.S. Army, where he served as a professor of history at the United States Military Academy. Gentile has served as a visiting fellow at the Council of Foreign Relations, and is an award winning historian and accomplished author. Gentile has numerous publications regarding military policy, including his previous book, [How Effective is Strategic Bombing? Lessons Learned from World War II to Kosovo](#).

Gentile served in the U.S. Army from 1986 to 2014, commissioning through the ROTC program at the University of California at Berkeley, where he received his bachelor's degree. He holds a Masters of Military Arts and Science from the School of Advanced Military Studies at Ft. Leavenworth and a Ph.D. in History from Stanford University. He served two tours of duty in Iraq in 2003 and 2006.

All Perspectives in Military History Lectures are open to the public and FREE to attend. Doors to the Visitor and Education Center will open at 6:30 p.m., and the lecture will begin at 7:15 p.m. Parking is free, and the Museum Store will be open. For directions, more information, and a complete schedule of USAHEC events, please visit: www.usahec.org or call 717-245-3972.

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