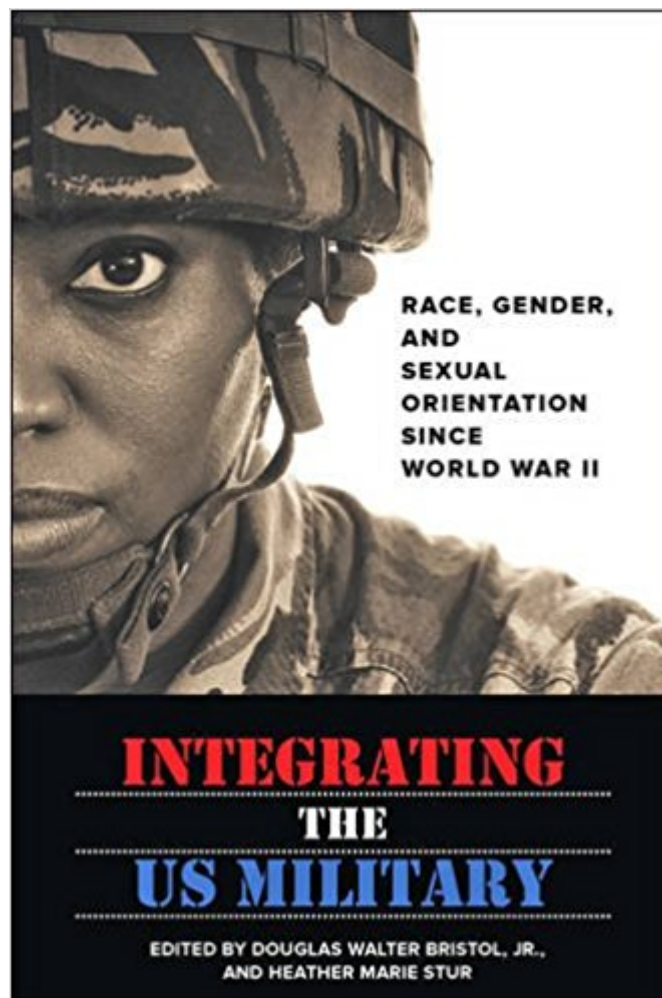




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Integrating The US Military: Race, Gender, And Sexual Orientation Since World War II



Synopsis

One of the great ironies of American history since World War II is that the military—typically a conservative institution—has often been at the forefront of civil rights. In the 1940s, the 1970s, and the early 2000s, military integration and promotion policies were in many ways more progressive than similar efforts in the civilian world. Today, the military is one of the best ways for people from marginalized groups to succeed based solely on job performance. Integrating the US Military traces the experiences of African Americans, Japanese Americans, women, and gay men and lesbians in the armed forces since World War II. By examining controversies from racial integration to the dismantling of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" to the recent repeal of the ban on women in combat, these essays show that the military is an important institution in which social change is confirmed and, occasionally, accelerated. Remarkably, the challenges launched against the racial, gender, and sexual status quo in the postwar years have also broadly transformed overarching ideas about power, citizenship, and America's role in the world. The first comparative study of legally marginalized groups within the armed services, Integrating the US Military is a unique look at the history of military integration in theory and in practice. The book underscores the complicated struggle that accompanied integration and sheds new light on a broad range of comparable issues that affect civilian society, including affirmative action, marriage laws, and sexual harassment.

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"An engaging and broad group of essays by first-rate scholars that emphasizes the major roles

minorities and women played in integrating the military. The comparative nature of the book makes it unique and especially attractive for college classes." (John David Smith, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, author of *Lincoln and the U.S. Colored Troops*) "*Integrating the US Military: Race, Gender, and Sexual Orientation Since World War II* is recommended for both military history and civil rights collections and gathers the experiences of Afro-Americans, Japanese Americans, women, and gay men and lesbians in the armed forces in modern times." (Donovan's Literary Services)

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