Rhetorical power, both its symbolic manifestations and material infrastructures, has always played a critical role in societal conflict and political conquest. However, in our current digital age, the speed and ubiquity of new communication tools and platforms threaten to advance faster than our ability to process and understand their effects. In *Rhet Ops: Rhetoric and Information Warfare*, editors Jim Ridolfo and William Hart-Davidson confront this challenge by bringing together a diverse set of essays seeking to address “the contemporary use of digital rhetoric by both state actors and military organizations as well as by non-state actors whose motives include carrying out violence” (p. 5). While the title mentions “Information Warfare,” the volume concerns itself more with the ethical implications of digital composition than the usage of rhetorical operations on the battlefield. Nonetheless, the topic is timely, and the volume offers multiple points for readers to reflect upon, including perspectives from academics and practitioners alike.

*Rhet Ops: Rhetoric and Information Warfare* offers sixteen chapters organized into three parts, with a short preface and afterword from the editors. Readers will not necessarily find an overarching theoretical argument, but the editors introduce the term “Rhet Ops,” or rhetorical operations, as an umbrella concept connecting the various essays together, which they define as the “use of the latest digital and social networking technology to append, enhance, and amplify state and non-state conflicts” (p. vii). Although the editors note that rhetoric “has always been valuable to states and militaries,” they add the claim that “rhetoric's cost and use value to state and non-state conflict increases with the ubiquity and speed of digital delivery and large-scale automated networks” (p. 6). They further suggest that the “militarized deployment of digital rhetoric is now part of our everyday lives,” which raises ethical questions concerning the teaching of digital rhetoric and multimodal composition to students in addition to scholastic concerns over the weaponization of disciplinary knowledge (p. 4). These concerns, including their linkage into rhetorical theory and digital composition, mark the central theme of many of the chapters, resulting in an arrangement of more critical analyses into what the editors call the “dark side of digital composing” (p. 3).

Part 1 offers seven essays exploring “Rhetorical Operations and Emerging Tactics.” This includes historical examinations of the role of the telegraph as a form of American colonialism (chapter 1) and a case study on Weather Underground’s “insurgent” rhetoric during the 1960s (chapter 6); essays critiquing the US intelligence community’s usage of rhetorical theory and informational analys-
is (chapters 2 and 3); and more modern case studies exploring insurgent rhetorics from al-Qaeda and ISIS through the lens of historical materialism (chapter 4), GamerGate’s dissentivist ethic (chapter 7), and US-funded Minerva research as a tool for developing militarized information capabilities (chapter 5).

Part 2 offers four essays discussing how digital tools “may be used to gather, detect, and act upon counter rhetorical operations” (p. 8). These include corpus linguistic comparisons of US and ISIS rhetoric (chapter 8), machine-learning approaches to understanding white supremacy discussions online (chapter 9), usages of online interfaces as surveillance tools (chapter 10), and disruptive database approaches to mapping and tracking gang-related graffiti (chapter 11).

Part 3 offers five stories from practitioners writing on their experiences with digital rhetoric and conflict broadly defined. These include a descriptive essay on rhetorical and design education in the US Air Force Academy’s CyberWorx program (chapter 12); a reflective essay on navigating graduate studies in rhetoric toward a career as a rhetorical “operator” (chapter 13); a chronicle of an American Red Cross employee’s creation, enactment, and reconsideration of social media policy in light of working with the US military (chapter 14); a collection of war reporters’ experiences detailing the changing technological means of reporting from Vietnam to the twenty-first century (chapter 15); and an analysis of how military wives resist and co-opt sexist and classist assumptions made by the military in its attempt to treat them as “force multipliers” (chapter 16, p. 233).

Taken together, the edited volume lays a rather broad foundation best used for undergraduate courses in rhetoric, composition, or intelligence. Nonetheless, it can also be a useful resource for academics and practitioners alike. As the editors aptly note in the afterword, “Whether we each choose to sit at the table or not, rhetorical studies is already there” (p. 248). Thus, *Rhet Ops: Rhetoric and Information Warfare* is best seen as a clarion call for greater reflection and engagement between academia and rhetorical operators concerning the changing nature of digital rhetoric, including its composition and networking potential. Instead of offering answers to these questions, the text aptly concludes with an “invitation to engage” in conversations about the weaponization of rhetorical knowledge and whether scholars and teachers of digital rhetoric contribute to or resist this trend (p. 247).
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