

The American Way of War & the Illusion of Decisive Victory



With Local Author Ed Erickson
Monday, Sept. 20 • 7 PM

Join noted historian Dr. Ed Erickson as he discusses what is called the "American Way of War" and the mythology and illusion of decisive victory. "But... I thought we were winning in Afghanistan?" We have a right to ask our leaders, "What does victory look like?" and to demand, as General David Petraeus queried, "Tell me how this ends." Americans are increasingly unwilling to remain in "The Long War" such as we have seen in Vietnam and Afghanistan and, yet at the same time, we are reluctant to leave without "victory." Dr. Erickson will explain the two principal philosophies of war affecting the American military experience and why Americans continue to subscribe to the concept of decisive victory. Ed's presentation will take about 45 minutes followed by a Q & A.

Dr. Edward Erickson is a Professor of International Relations at Antalya Bilim University, Antalya, Turkey and a retired Professor of Military History from the Department of War Studies at the Marine Corps University.

He retired from the United States Army as a lieutenant colonel with multiple combat tours in the field artillery and additional experiences as a foreign area officer specializing in the Middle East. Dr. Erickson is a native of Norwich, he has published seventeen books with academic and popular presses, and he is recognized as an authority in modern military history.



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