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Research Guide Series

Military Culture & Society

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The Armed Forces and defence requirements have both experienced extensive changes since the end of the Cold War. The types and range of operations that the military engage in are more diversified than before, and the aims, policies and methods of the armed forces have undergone significant changes. Along with these changes, the military has undergone significant changes in respect to its culture. There has been an increasing expectation that the armed forces should reflect society. This largely falls under equal opportunities, with women taking a more equal role, the increase of ethnic minorities and the legal admittance of homosexuals into the armed services; however, the military are also under pressure to be a more flexible employer, offering a better work-life balance and a family life more in line with wider society. Some of these changes have been contested both within the armed forces and outside it, with concerns that they will adversely affect both operational effectiveness and the distinct culture of the armed forces.

This bibliography has been designed to provide a guide as to where to find information on military culture and society. Please note that the list of references below is a selection of the more relevant titles and information on the subject. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive but is an introductory guide to some of the resources available.

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