CONSTITUTIONAL WAR POWERS

Many believe that the power to start wars is the most important issue of constitutional war powers – and perhaps the most important issue of constitutional law altogether. Yet this fixation on the power to start wars obscures equally important questions. Who has the power to prepare for war, deter it, conduct it, decide its aims, or end it? Although many democracies wrestle with these constitutional questions, the United States stands apart in that no other written constitution has had to function over time across such dramatic transformations in national military power and radical swings in strategy for wielding it. To show the many ways that political leaders have adapted law – in war, in peace, and in the gray zones between – this book weaves together the stories of American constitutional war powers, military history, and grand strategy from the Revolutionary War to possible conflicts of the future. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Matthew C. Waxman is the Liviu Librescu Professor of Law at Columbia University and Adjunct Senior Fellow for Law & Foreign Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations. He previously held senior positions at the White House National Security Council, Department of Defense, and Department of State.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 05 Nov 2026 at 10:29:06, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms.
https://www.cambridge.org/core/product/B5FF565FE98D2F88DFD30AA1B6C97658

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 05 Nov 2026 at 10:29:06, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms.
https://www.cambridge.org/core/product/B5FF565FE98D2F88DFD30AA1B6C97658

Constitutional War Powers

LAW & STRATEGY FROM THE REVOLUTION TO CYBERCONFLICT

MATTHEW C. WAXMAN
Columbia University

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 05 Nov 2026 at 10:29:06, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms.
https://www.cambridge.org/core/product/B5FF565FE98D2F88DFD30AA1B6C97658



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009869867
DOI: 10.1017/9781009869874

© Matthew C. Waxman 2026

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009869874 under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given and any changes made are indicated. To view a copy of this license visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009869874

First published 2026

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

ISBN 978-1-009-86986-7 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-86983-6 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

For EU product safety concerns, contact us at Calle de José Abascal, 56, 1°, 28003 Madrid, Spain, or email eugpsr@cambridge.org.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 05 Nov 2026 at 10:29:06, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://www.cambridge.org/core/product/B5FF565FE98D2F88DFD30AA1B6C97658