

Helmut von Moltke the Elder, the chief of staff of the prussian army for 3 decades, revolutionized the prussian army doctrine with his focus on independent, quick-thinking officers, logistics, and rapid mobilization rather than rigid structures or well trained troops. The stunning efficacy of his military doctrine can be seen in the austro prussian war of 1866, and the franco-prussian war of 1870-1871, which saw the humiliation of both nations.

His army doctrine had a profound, lasting influence on modern warfare, and by studying it, we can (hope?) to continuously evolve the current state of warfare. The prevailing military doctrine at the time mirrored that of Napoleon's era, Highly centralized command in which clear, direct commands from the top of the army would be orderly doled out by officers of decreasing rank.

Nations generally did not incorporate new communications and transport technology into army logistics -Railways and telegraphs-, and relied on foraging the nearby area. This paper wishes to analyze the influences of von Moltke's theory of war on future army doctrines after his passing, which include the (Multi Domain operations) doctrine of the USA, the WW1 doctrine of entrenchment, the prevailing WW2 doctrine of combined arms.

Principles of Von-Moltke army doctrine

Decentralized army command

Incentivized action on the part of individual officers

Incorporated technology into army logistics

Focused on cutting off armies from their supplies