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John Mueller is Woody Hayes Senior Research Scientist Emeritus and Woody Hayes Chair of National Security Studies Emeritus at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies as well as Professor of Political Science Emeritus at Ohio State University. He is also a Cato Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute in Washington, DC.

His most recent book, published early in 2021 by Cambridge University Press, is *[The Stupidity of War: American Foreign Policy and the Case for Complacency](#)*. It surveys the history of American foreign and military policy since 1945, and concludes that threat has been routinely inflated, that changes in attitudes toward international war have been very consequential, that far too much has been spent on the military, and that there is potential virtue in the traditionally maligned techniques of complacency and appeasement for dealing with international problems. Two articles related to the book [are here](#).

He has also worked on terrorism and particularly on the costly over-reactions it often inspires. He has written three books on the subject in collaboration with engineer and risk analyst Mark Stewart: *[Are We Safe Enough? Measuring and Assessing Aviation Security](#)* (Amsterdam: Elsevier, 2018); *[Chasing Ghosts: The Policing of Terrorism](#)*, (Oxford University Press, 2016); and *[Terror, Security, and Money: Balancing the Risks, Benefits, and Costs of Homeland Security](#)* (Oxford University Press, 2011). He has also written *[Overblown: How Politicians and the Terrorism Industry Inflate National Security Threats, and Why We Believe Them](#)* (Free Press, 2006). The *New York Times* called the book “important” and “accurate, timely, and necessary.”

Mueller’s 2010 book, *[Atomic Obsession: Nuclear Alarmism from Hiroshima to Al Qaeda](#)* (Oxford University Press), suggests that atomic terrorism is highly unlikely and that efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation frequently have damaging results. His *[War and Ideas: Selected Essays](#)* was published in 2011 by Routledge. He is also the editor of a set of case studies, *[Terrorism Since 9/11: The American Cases](#)*, which was first published as a webbook in 2011 by the Mershon Center and has been updated and expanded each year since. With Christopher Preble, he is the editor of *[A Dangerous World? Threat Perception and U.S. National Security](#)*, published by the Cato Institute in 2014.

Mueller is the author of a multiple-prize-winning book analyzing public opinion during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, *[War, Presidents and Public Opinion](#)* (Wiley, 1973) (“a classic” according to the *American Political Science Review*) and of *[Retreat from Doomsday: The Obsolescence of Major War](#)* (Basic Books, 1989) which deals with changing attitudes toward war. In a front page review of this latter book in the Sunday book section of the *Washington Post*, McGeorge Bundy commented, “Mueller makes you think, and his method of argument combines fresh insights with trenchant prose in a way that makes thoughtful reading agreeable.” Mueller has also published *[Policy and Opinion in the Gulf War](#)* (University of Chicago Press, 1994) and *[Quiet Cataclysm: Reflections on the Recent Transformation of World Politics](#)* (HarperCollins, 1995). His *[Capitalism, Democracy, and Ralph’s Pretty Good Grocery](#)* was published in 1999 by Princeton University Press. In his review in *The Weekly Standard*, David J. Silver writes, “Mueller’s provocative book deserves a wide audience. . . . Mueller writes sharp, brisk, and witty prose that is unfailingly lucid.” Mueller’s book about international and civil wars, *[The Remnants of War](#)*, was published by Cornell University Press in 2004. Writing in *The New Republic*, Gregg Easterbrook called it “brilliantly original and urgent.” It was awarded the Leggold Prize from Georgetown University for the best book on international relations in 2004.

Retreat from Doomsday (expanded and updated), *Quiet Cataclysm*, and *War, Presidents and Public Opinion* have been [reprinted](#).

Mueller has published hundreds of articles in such journals as *International Security*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Interest*, *Security Studies*, *Orbis*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Risk Analysis*, *National Interest*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Washington Quarterly*, *Lapham's Quarterly*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Washington Quarterly*, *War On the Rocks*, *International Interactions*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, *International Studies Perspectives*, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, *Issues in Science and Technology*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *CTC Sentinel*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Risk Analysis*, *Review of International Studies*, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, and *Foreign Policy*, as well as editorial page columns and articles in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New Republic*, *ABA Human Rights Magazine*, *Nation*, *American Conservative*, *Regulation*, *Reason*, *Responsible Statecraft*, *Huffington Post*, *Time*, *Slate*, *Washington Post*, *Time*, *New York Newsday*, *Playboy*, and *New York Times*. He has been a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC, the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo.

He has appeared on television on “The O’Reilly Factor,” “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” [view here](#), “Hannity and Colmes,” “Nightly Business Report” on PBS, “The National” on CBC, and “20/20” with John Stossel, and on radio on “The Michael Medved Show,” the BBC, the Australian Broadcast Company, and on NPR’s “On Point,” “Marketplace,” and “All Things Considered.”

In another field, he is the author of *Astaire Dancing* (Knopf, 1985). Before publication this book won the de la Torre Bueno prize of Dance Perspectives Foundation as the “most distinguished manuscript on dance.” Since publication, it has been called “one of the most satisfying, rich and witty film books ever written” by *Kirkus Reviews*, and “an extraordinary study of film art” by the *New York Times*. The book furnishes a detailed assessment of Astaire’s 31 musical films and an analysis of each musical number including 2344 frame pictures. This book has now been digitally remastered and [republished](#) with a new preface by the author. The frame pictures in the new edition have been recaptured in far higher quality than in the original, and those from color films are presented in color.

Mueller also provides the commentary track on both DVD versions of the 1936 Astaire-Rogers film, “Swing Time.” He is the director of Ohio State’s [Dance Film Archive](#), a set of DVDs, videotapes, and 16mm films that are available for purchase and rental.

Also to his credit are scripts for two musicals. One of these, [A Foggy Day](#), combines a P.G. Wodehouse play with songs by George and Ira Gershwin and, co-written by [Norm Foster](#), was produced for the 1998 and 1999 seasons at the [Shaw Festival](#), in Ontario, Canada, for over 250 performances (all sold out) over the two seasons. Another, [One For My Baby](#), derives from a Fred Astaire film and makes use of songs with lyrics by Johnny Mercer.

Before coming to Ohio State in 2000, Mueller was on the faculty at the University of Rochester for many years. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, has been a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow, and has received grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has also received several teaching prizes, and in 2009 received the International Studies Association’s Susan Strange Award that “recognizes a

person whose singular intellect, assertiveness, and insight most challenge conventional wisdom and intellectual and organizational complacency in the international studies community.” In 2010, he received Ohio State University’s Distinguished Scholar Award. He was also selected for the *Playboy* Honor Roll of 20 Professors Who Are Reinventing the Classroom in the October 2010 [issue](#) of the magazine. In 2015, he delivered the PRIO Annual [Peace Address](#) in Oslo, Norway.

Complete curriculum vita ([pdf](#))