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Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Collection - Thesis - 'National Service in a Future War'

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money appropriated by an economy-minded Congress, and the skill with which this money is spent by the National Military Establishment. Because the amount of money appropriated is small, and because the nation as a whole is engaged in peacetime pursuits of normal living, only a minimum force is being maintained. At the present time this force consists only of a small realitiory air organisation, and certain other nuclei, that exists mainly for the purpose of facilitating great expansion in time of war. This expansion of the armed forces and the reorganisation of the national economy for the war constitute the process of mobilization. In World War I and II mobilization was relatively slow and unimpeded by enemy action; our allies provided us with the necessary time, and the means of attacking our mobilization base did not exist. In a future war, mobilization must be more rapid, largely because advances in technology have substantially shortened the time available for mobilization. Not only has technology provided the mains of attache on the continental United States, but it has also made possible the creation of weapons with capabilities of such devastating effects upon this nation that the war might conceivably lost before we could mobilize. The National Military Establishment must provide by measures of its own the time necessary for mobilization. It is desired to indicate at this point the only fact that because of the nature of modern weapons, mobilization must be rapid, and that the process will probably be disturbed by enemy action to a degree hitherto unknown. Certainly, it is of prime importance in a future war that the great national potential of the United States be brought effectively to bear on Russia in such a manner that the war will be terminated in minimum time and with minimum damage to our population and cities

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