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[Michael Roberts, The Military Revolution, 1560-1660, p. 32-33]

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Grotius had been compelled to legitimize. Then, indeed, there followed a long interval in which a limitation of the scope of war was successfully maintained. But it is a long way still, in 1660, to the humane rationalism of Vattel.

Such were some of the effects of the military revolution: I have no doubt that others could be distinguished. I hope, at least, to have persuaded you that it was indeed a revolution. Between 1560 and 1660 a great and permanent change came over the European world. The armies of Maximilian II, in tactics, strategy, constitution and spirit, belong to a world of ideas which would have seemed quite foreign to Benedek and Radetzky. The armies of the Great Elector are linked inextricably with those of Moltke and Schlieffen. By 1660 the modern art of war had come to birth. Mass armies, strict discipline, absolute submergence of the individual, had already arrived; the conjoint ascendancy of financial power and applied science was already established in all its malignity; the use of propaganda, psychological warfare, and terrorism as military weapons was already familiar to theorists, as well as to commanders in the field; and the last remaining qualms as to the religious and ethical legitimacy of war seemed to have been stilled. The road lay open, broad and straight, to the abyss of the twentieth century.



