

## MILITARY VIRTUES: REFLECTING REALITY THROUGH A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

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**Abstract:** Military Aid is provided to civil authorities, other government departments and civil community when the governments call on the military to assist at times of need according to the domestic law of a country. With the globalization, technological advancements and lessons from the past it seems that there is a healthy civil-military relationship exist today with greater admiration for human life and dignity. Military is more than a close group of comrades. There the military gives more priority on military virtues. Virtue is a moral attribute that any one should own. It is clear that the majority of the military uphold traditional military virtues like honor, bravery, discipline, and loyalty. The aim of this study is to identify the primary topics and present factors or dynamics in the area of military virtues and to make recommendations for future research directions. The aim was achieved by examining the annual publication trend, author analysis, country-wise analysis, keyword analysis, thematic analysis, source analysis and qualitative analysis of highly cited publications in the literature of military virtues. This study found that there is a dearth of studies in this area and need to be investigated in detail by future researchers.

**Keywords:** Virtues, Military Virtues, Bibliometric Analysis.

## VIRTUTILE MILITARE: REFLECTAREA REALITĂȚII PRIN – O ANALIZĂ BIBLIOMETRICĂ

**Rezumat:** Ajutorul militar este oferit autorităților civile, altor departamente guvernamentale și comunității civile atunci când guvernele cheamă militarii să asiste în momente de nevoie, conform legislației interne a unei țări. Odată cu globalizarea, progresele tehnologice și lecțiile din trecut, se pare că există o relație civilă-militară sănă-

*toasă care există astăzi cu o admirație mai mare pentru viața și demnitatea umană. Militarul este mai mult decât un grup apropiat de camarazi. Acolo armata acordă mai multă prioritate virtuților militare. Virtutea este un atribut moral pe care oricine ar trebui să-l dețină. Este clar că majoritatea militarilor susțin virtuțile militare tradiționale precum onoarea, curajul, disciplina și loialitatea. Scopul acestui studiu este de a identifica subiectele primare și de a prezenta factori sau dinamici în zona virtuților militare și de a face recomandări pentru direcțiile viitoare de cercetare. Scopul a fost atins prin examinarea tendinței publicațiilor anuale, analiza autorului, analiza pe țară, analiza cuvintelor-cheie, analiza tematică, analiza surselor și analiza calitativă a publicațiilor foarte citate în literatura de virtuți militare. Acest studiu a constatat că există o lipsă de studii în acest domeniu și că trebuie investigate în detaliu de către viitorii cercetători.*

**Cuvinte-cheie:** *virtuți, virtuți militare, analiză bibliometrică.*

### **Introduction**

(Murphy, 2002) claims that the term „character” originates from the Greek word „charakter”, which meaning „enduring mark”. (Iddagoda, 2020) defines the personal character as the person’s strength or skill to contemplate the importance of having a high level of virtues in their life while eradicating the vices or badness (p.41). According to (Opatha, 2010), morality or civility often characterize excellent or good character, while immorality or incivility mostly characterize bad character. Good habits are regarded as virtues. Considering Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics as its obvious focal point, (Sandin, 2007) claims that virtue ethics is not a new subject. National security, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and diplomatic relations are the conventional roles of the Army, Navy and Air Force is the view of Iddagoda et al., in 2022 (Iddagoda, Abeysinghe and Wickramaratne, 2022). (Olsthoorn, 2010) states that conventional military virtues are primarily advantageous to colleagues and the organization and do not significantly benefit the local people or civilians where military personnel are deployed. (Keppetipola and Dharmasiri, 2020) defined military virtues as the favorable attributes that are useful for moral prominence of military, individual development of the military personnel and societal development (p.153). this study is about a bibliometric analysis of military virtues. The objectives are: to examine the trend of publications related to „military virtues”; to examine the highly cited authors related to „military virtues”; to examine the highly cited sources related to „military virtues”; to examine the highly cited countries related to „military virtues”; to examine the frequently used keywords related to „military virtues”; to recommend future research opportunities related to „military virtues”.

### Data and Methodology

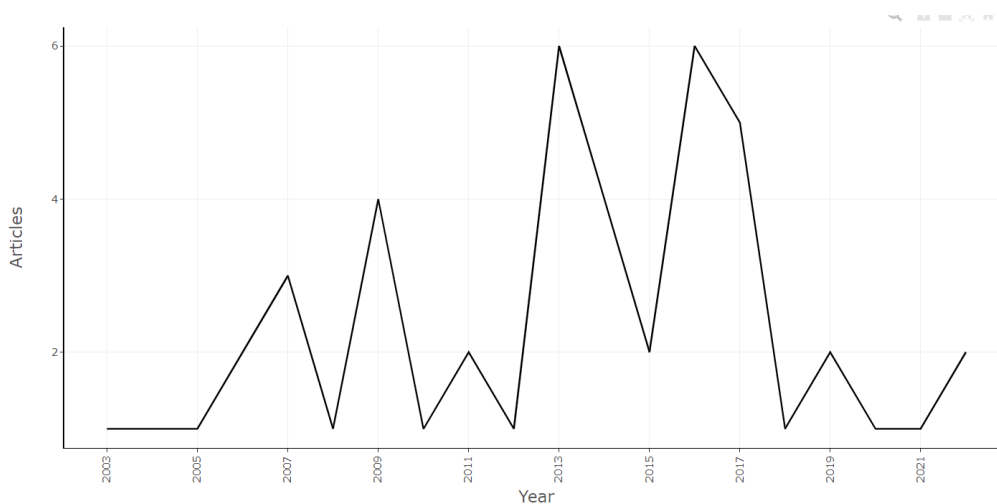
The articles used „Military virtues” as a keyword considered for the analysis. The first level search shows 49 articles meet this criterion. Next, only the English language articles are selected. The final database comprises 47 articles in this area of research. The current study has used a variety of bibliometric analytic approaches, such as frequency tables on publications broken down by year, nation, author, etc. The most influential articles in this field of study are noted. The current field of research uses keyword analysis and thematic mapping to identify the prevailing topics.

### Results and Discussion

This section includes trend analysis, country analysis, author analysis, source analysis, keyword analysis and thematic analysis.

#### Trend Analysis

Figure 1 depicts the publication trend in the research on „military virtues” in the Scopus database from 2003 to 2022. The single number of publications was documented in the years 2003, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2018, 2020, and 2021, and the highest number of publications in the years 2013 and 2016. This graph illustrates there is a steady growth in publications with almost every year published at least one publication.



**Figure 1. Year-wise Publications**

## Country Analysis

*Table 1 Country-Wise Publications*

Country	TP	TC	Average Article Citations
USA	12	58	8.30
Netherlands	4	42	8.40
Canada	3	34	11.30
Australia	2	24	12.00
Sweden	1	18	18.00
United Kingdom	8	18	4.50
Kuwait	2	11	11.00
New Zealand	1	9	9.00
Greece	3	6	3.00
Denmark	1	2	2.00

The Seventeen countries have made significant contributions related to “military virtues” publications in the last two decades. Table 1 reveals that the USA, Netherlands, Canada, and Australia are the top five developed countries with the highest citations. As the most productive country in this area of research, 12 articles were published in the USA and received the highest number of citations. However, the 42 citations from the Netherlands, which has the second-highest number of citations only published four articles. The highest average article citations received by Australia was 24 citations for two publications.

## Source Analysis

*Table 2 Journal-Wise Publications*

Journal	h_in- dex	g_in- dex	m_in- dex	TC	NP	PY_start
Journal of Military Ethics	7	11	0.333	122	12	2003
Armed Drones and the Ethics Of War: Military Virtue in a Post-heroic Age	1	1	0.091	35	1	2013
Military Ethics and Virtues: An Interdisciplinary Approach for the 21st Century	1	1	0.071	30	1	2010
British Journal of Educational Studies	1	1	0.053	19	1	2005

Ethics and Weapons of Mass Destruction: Religious and Secular Perspectives	1	1	0.05	18	1	2004
International Conference on Cyber Conflict, Cycon	1	1	0.091	18	1	2013
Journal of Religious History	1	1	0.056	9	1	2006
European Journal of International Relations	1	1	0.091	8	1	2013
Political Theory	1	1	0.111	7	1	2015
Peace Review	1	1	0.077	5	1	2011

The database contains 47 documents that were published from 35 sources. Table 2 highlights the top 10 journals with the highest citations for “military virtues.” Out of the total publications, 63 percent of the publications identified are published in these journals. Journal of Military Ethics, published by Taylor and Francis, has the most cited publications, with 122 citations for twelve documents, followed by Armed Drones and the Ethics of War: Military Virtue in a Post-heroic Age, published by Routledge publications (35 citations).

### **Author Analysis**

*Table 3 Author-Wise Publications*

<b>Authors</b>	<b>h_index</b>	<b>g_index</b>	<b>m_index</b>	<b>TC</b>	<b>NP</b>	<b>PY_start</b>
Olsthoorn P	3	3	0.2	41	3	2009
Enemark C	1	1	0.091	35	1	2013
Robinson P	2	2	0.118	34	2	2007
Coleman S	1	1	0.067	24	1	2009
Vallor S	2	2	0.182	21	2	2013
Sherman N	1	1	0.053	19	1	2005
Ching J	1	1	0.05	18	1	2004
Sandin P	1	1	0.059	18	1	2007

Westhus- ing T	1	1	0.048	13	1	2003
Aristidou M	1	1	0.1	11	1	2014
Zavaliy Ag	1	1	0.1	11	1	2014

The top 10 authors publishing their research on „military virtues” are listed in Table 3. The findings reveal that Olsthoorn P, Enemark C, Robinson P, Coleman S and Vallor S are the five authors who have received citations greater than 20. According to the number of publications highest number of articles was published by Olsthoorn P with 3 publications.

### Keyword Analysis

Table 4 : Keyword Analysis

Words	Occurrences
virtue	15
integrity	4
aristotle	3
character	3
courage	3
justice	3
loyalty	3
virtue ethics	3
collective virtue	2
ethics	2
honor	2
masculinity	2
moral deskillling	2
plato	2
prudence	2
war	2



Figure 3 exhibits the thematic map related to military virtues. It provides a pictorial presentation of the trending themes in this area of research. Bottom-right part of the map shows the basic themes representing the well-established research issues in this area. The themes including military virtues, character and moral deskillling are considered as basic themes. It is mainly because most of the studies discussed these, and it is required to investigate these themes with different variants not the same as these keywords.

The themes gaining importance in the recent past are presented in the top-right part of the map. It mainly includes three research issues: Aristotle, courage, virtue, justice, collective virtues and virtue ethics. The top-left part shows the niche themes. This includes masculinity and honour which future research needs to be further explored. Finally, integrity and “loyalty” is classified as emerging theme/declining theme.

### Document Analysis

(Sandin, 2007) asserts that, with Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics as its obvious centrepiece, virtue ethics is not a new concept. Sandin (2007) further points out that tasks required of soldiers are frequently more demanding than those required of members of the general public. Sandin (2007) highlights that; „in discussion of military ethics, two types of issues have traditionally been distinguished. On concerns *jus ad bellum*, or right to war, and other *jus in bello* right in war”. The former mainly concerns when war is justified and latter how war is to be conducted.

(Olsthoorn, 2010) states that, integrity is typically regarded as a crucial military virtue. Olsthoorn (2009) further states that, notion of integrity as upholding personal values and principles is a very problematic one itself, especially to those who working in the military. (Vallor, 2013) argues that professional ideals of military virtues such as courage, integrity, honor, and compassion help to distinguish legal uses of military force from immoral, illegal, or mercenary violence while also preserving the idea of moral community needed to ensure a meaningful peace in a war’s aftermath. (Zavaliy and Aristidou, 2014) argue that a courageous agent aims at alleviating or preventing harm for others in a situation of potential risk for the agent himself, while respecting the factual conditions that determine the probability of success. Becker (2006) states, Prussian view of military virtues differ from Europe due presence of women in Roman forts. (Calhoun, 2011) highlights that despite the fact that much of what our society’s troops perform bears no resemblance to what warriors did in the past, we nevertheless refer to the actions they engage in as „war”.

(Cherry, 2015) asserts that, knowing what „part of virtue and wisdom” citizens possess not only clarifies their place in a society but also suggests ways in which they, and their government, can be improved. (Coleman, 2009) argues that, the requirements of loyalty can never rightfully prevail above a genuine obligation to obey orders, according to a fundamental understanding of loyalty and disloyalty. (de Vries, 2020) suggests that, the seven virtues of military character—responsibility, competence, comradeship, respect, courage, resilience,

and discipline—are those that are appropriate to military practice. emphasizes that practical wisdom and the military virtue of intellect complete this framework.

(Enemark, 2013) suggests that, rather than simply being an evolution in the arsenal of technologically advanced militaries, these weapons systems may cause us to fundamentally rethink the assumptions and rationale upon which much of the ethics and the laws of war are based. (Karamanoli and Papachristopoulos, 2017) assert that, according to the military hierarchy, the lack of military values appears to be part of the social representation at various levels. (Kyriakidis, 2016) states tactics does not necessarily contradict the virtues of courage and valour. Instead, they indicate the good judgment and ability of commanders to devise the proper course of action. (Macknight, 2009) states honor for the male aristocracy was considered to be ‘in the blood’ and still very closely bound to ancient military virtues of duty, bravery and sacrifice.

(Neocleous, 2013) challenges, there is a widely held belief in the liberal peace thesis that the idea of an inherently peaceful economic civil society emerged during the Scottish Enlightenment in the eighteenth century. Instead, the study highlights how the Scottish Enlightenment embraced the notion of military virtue. (Schulzke, 2016) highlights that, since soldiers must make quick decisions on the battlefield, virtue ethics is well adapted to govern their behavior. Yet, as the use of unmanned weapon systems increases, its relevance to military personnel is in danger. (Sherman, 2005) points out that, developing practical knowledge is a lifetime endeavour; there are always problems to overcome as well as opportunities to strengthen one’s moral convictions. (Troughton, 2006) states that whilst only some military virtues were valued—and only in particular forms—even these proved problematic in certain respects. In particular, attempts to integrate soldierly and moral manliness, especially through resurgent use of notions like chivalry and crusade, failed to connect with soldiers’ actual experiences. (Westhusing\*, 2003) highlights that, benevolence gains extension through the artificial virtue of justice and as a moral virtue, ‘honor’ beguiles through the abstractions it hides.

## **Conclusion**

According to the researchers’ knowledge this is the first study to focus on specific literature on military virtues. The objective of the current study is to identify military virtues-related trends, countries that are setting the standard, publications with the most cited articles and trending subjects. The findings reveal that the average growth rate of publications increased steadily from 2003. USA, Netherlands, Canada, Australia and Sweden are the top five countries with high citations. Themes like virtues, justice, courage, collective virtues draw considerable attention from the authors in this area. Integrity and Loyalty is considered emerging themes that have the potential for future research.

This study considers only SCOPUS publications and future researchers can consider the extend the analysis including Web of Science, Google Scholar, etc. In addition,

future researchers can consider corresponding analysis, co-citation analysis, coupling analysis using Vos Viewer software to comprehensively analysis.

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