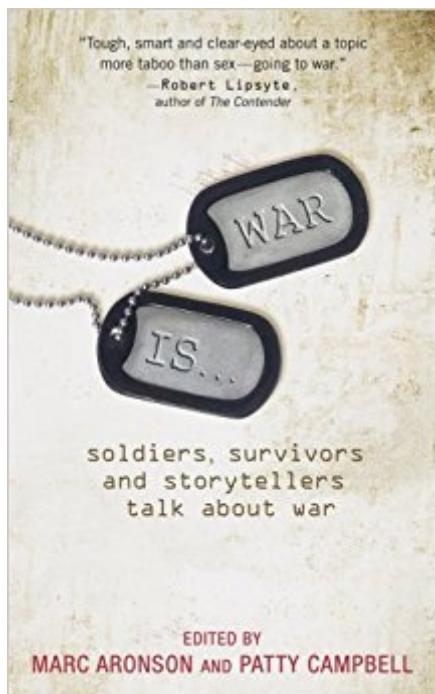


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# War Is....: Soldiers, Survivors And Storytellers Talk About War



## Synopsis

In a provocative anthology, two editors with opposing viewpoints present an unflinching collection of works reflecting on the nature of war. Marc Aronson thinks war is inevitable. Patty Campbell thinks war is cruel, deceptive, and wrong. But both agree on one thing: that teens need to hear the truthful voices of those who have experienced war firsthand. The result is this dynamic selection of essays, memoirs, letters, and fiction from nearly twenty contributors, both contemporary and historical — ranging from Christian Bauman's wrenching "Letter to a Young Enlistee" to Chris Hedges's unflinching look at combat to Fumiko Miura's Nagasaki memoir, "A Survivor's Tale." Whether the speaker is Mark Twain, World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle, or a soldier writing a miliblog, these divergent pieces look war straight in the face — and provide an invaluable resource for teenagers today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up — Aronson and Campbell have collected an outstanding array of essays, interviews, blog posts, articles, song lyrics, short stories, and letters from people directly involved in war. The book is broken into sections called "Deciding About War," "Experiencing War," and "The Aftermath of War." A former soldier writes an open letter to young enlistees, hoping they will scrutinize their reasons for joining up. The U.S. military recruitment contract is minutely examined by a high school social studies teacher. World War II reporter Ernie Pyle's articles on D-Day are reprinted. An essay about women soldiers who served in Iraq is excerpted from Helen Benedict's forthcoming book, *The Lonely Soldier*. And a memoir by poet Fumiko Miura, survivor of the atomic

bomb at Nagasaki, is included. The volume closes with a short play and a short story about the aftereffects of war. The editors make it plain that they are antiwar, but they have made an effort to convey a variety of experiences. Overall, however, war is shown to be brutal, life-changing (not for the better), and ongoing. Aronson notes that humans have gone to war for all of recorded history and show no signs of stopping now. Many books about war for young people make it seem glamorous, exciting, and noble. This powerful collection shows its inglorious, perhaps more realistic side.â••Geri Diorio, The Ridgefield Library, CT Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

**\*Starred Review\*** In his provocatively titled introduction, "People Like War," Aronson writes: "If we ask people to fight for us...as we always have and always will" we owe them the respect of listening to them. Though differing (passionately) about war's inevitability, his coeditor, Campbell, feels likewise, and joins him in presenting a gathering of reminiscences, interviews, letters, published articles, and literary works that brilliantly convey war's terrible appeal as well as its realities and lasting effects on those whose lives are personally touched by armed conflict. Contributions include Ernie Pyle's eloquent account of wreckage on a D-Day beach, a Vietnam vet's nightmarish memories of combat, jokey letters home by Campbell's naive doughboy father, scathing accounts of sexual harassment in Iraq and elsewhere from several female ex-GIs, and a disturbing indictment of recruiting practices in today's high schools. Anyone considering enlistment will find these pieces (not to mention the many titles provided in the ample but not indigestible lists of war fiction and nonfiction at the end) to be mesmerizing reading. With this collection, Aronson and Campbell have provided an uncommonly valuable source of hard information and perceptive insight. Grades 10-12. --John Peters --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Really good for a solid project or essay. A book like this is not very common these days. It really questions history and humanity.

This was an eclectic and interesting collection of essays, stories, and interviews about war. I think there is something in the book that any young reader would enjoy. I particularly enjoyed the Mark Twain short story and letter about why someone should decide to enlist. In the classroom this could be used as a conversation or discussion start to a unit to explore the many ideas and concepts regarding war.

The item I requested was shipped quickly and in great condition, as stated on the site. I don't order often online so I was glad to see it shipped in a package that really kept the book from getting damaged. All in all, a 5.

This book should be required reading in high school political science classes. Most high school students lack the maturity and therefore the capacity to critically examine the nature of the military, recruitment practices, and war. High schools have partnered with the military under the No Child Left Behind act, which should be renamed the No Child Left Unrecruited act. Youth should learn to question war. Excellent reference to the military enlistment contract, which in reality is not a contract at all.

as a birthday gift to my husband, This is the first "larger product" in our kitchen collection. Thus far (one week), it is sharp, performs well for chopping and slicing, and has excellent balance and weight. Time will tell how it retains its edge and resharpen. help me a lot. as the price. arrive on time.

War is...A book of fiction and deception compiled and edited by supposedly respected commentators Marc Aronson and Patty Campbell. These two commentators have edited pieces of fiction and other essays supposedly containing nonfiction, I did not find any those nonfiction footnotes. This compilation of information is heavily slanted towards an anti war campaign and not objective when it comes to using information to portray the truth. The objective is to guide you to the conclusion that the world loves war, and if you see war in any other way than they do, then you are a lover of war also. These two compilers of information believe that mixing fiction with some elements of truth will change your outlook on the facts; they even use information as facts but leave out the fact that they aren't even facts but someone's conclusion of what should be factual based on their limited knowledge of the facts. Their method of getting out their hate for the truth is deception through misdirection and fiction, regurgitating information they themselves never verified they just repeated it hoping it would either sound good or stick to the wall and be glossed over as the truth. These compilers write as though they, themselves, know the truth about war and attempt to teach us, who have fought in many battles many times, and yet they have never seen the battle front from a soldiers eyes. The pick and choose the stories of fiction and truth that meet their agenda and desired outcome, and thus deceive themselves in believing that freedom comes to us

without war. War is evil, peace is good, but you cannot find one with the other, because there is evil in the world, and these compilers deny that it exists throughout the entire book. By not mentioning that war is evil is the same as denying it. Remember they have an agenda and saying war is evil is too easy. They hate recruiters, and yet the United States has the only all volunteer military force in the world. And they believe the only way that we have so many volunteers is because we are brain washed and lied to, not telling the recruits the real reasons are for "economic and political incentives", and by the way these are real reasons in the real world that we live in, if only they can get past their puffy clouds and margaritas maybe they could see that. They mock men for fighting in wars because they don't see the weeping wives, mothers for their lost ones in war, but then they through in "rape and enslavement while, men fight on the battle field", and yet the reason we fight is to create a world of civilization that our wives and daughters won't have to fear, that they can walk down the street and not be grabbed and taken away from their homes to be raped and sold into slavery. I heard this first hand in Iraq and Afghanistan from fathers and brothers. You mock men for their God given duty to protect their families even at the peril of their own lives. You are hypocrites. Pg 5 War is evil and the work of the devil, but you can't say that, that would be too easy. Our war is against evil, the devil would rather have it easy without a fight but when you know the truth you will fight, those against war are also on the wrong side, war is for oppression and control, the devil is for oppression and control, to take away our individual rights too freely choose good over evil. But there is no other way to fight for freedom but to go to war. Without the truth you are bound to be bound to the lie, with the truth you free to live freely. Do you really know what "Thou Shalt Not Kill" number 6 of the Ten Commandments Means? Do you not know what it means to defend yourself from those that kill, oppress and enslave? Do you know of another way to defend the truth against those who would enslave you, torcher, maim you and kill you? Remember evil hates the truth, and he will do it with the power of deception and sweetly lead you to his lair, and if you won't go easy he will drag you there. And he will mislead you into believing that war can be avoided by just giving into the idea "that the good hate war" and "bad love it". Pg 7 Chris Hedges is a socialist "Who worked in one miserable war zone after another", do I need to say more than I never heard of him or saw him, and I have been in the war since 1984, and a socialist on the combat field seems a little out of the way of truth. Chris takes war down to a godless state of selfishness, "War strips people down to basics: Will I live? Will I win? Will I conquer? Will I be defeated?" I have only thought of one of these things in the middle of combat, "Will I die today". Chris wants war to be romantic and selfish or it won't sell to the public. No I have not read any of his books and I won't need to because he has no problem being in this one, enough said. Pg 8 Let's take the Phrase "We

are going to war" and make it evil; and anyone playing video games or sports have to kill and maim to fulfill our cravings for war, what a bunch of crap! And yes there is more, but I believe I have said enough.

This book is a collection of poems, short stories, interviews, and first hand accounts of war. It is comprised of four sections: what I believe about war, deciding about war, experiencing war, and the aftermath of war. Basically every entry looks at war from a different angle or tells a different aspect of it. My two favorite entries were the article on the truth of recruiting and Mark Twain's satire piece on a group of people praying for God to support them in their war (and an angel comes to talk to them.) Just a very fascinating collection. I would personally want anyone who is thinking about joining the army to read this book first. It is not all pro or anti war and I feel that the overall picture is a balanced one. It tells about the reality of war and what a teen should be thinking about before enlisting. There is language (obviously, as there is in all war books and in war.) There are disturbing images and situations (again just as there will be in life.) If a student that wants to join the army is not comfortable reading that, then they don't belong in the army. I would especially want people to read the article on recruiting. This book is not an all purpose read, but for what it is written to do it is a 5 star book.

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