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# War Is a Force that Gives Us Meaning

*By Chris Hedges*



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As a veteran war correspondent, Chris Hedges has survived ambushes in Central America, imprisonment in Sudan, and a beating by Saudi military police. He has seen children murdered for sport in Gaza and petty thugs elevated into war heroes in the Balkans. Hedges, who is also a former divinity student, has seen war at its worst and knows too well that to those who pass through it, war can be exhilarating and even addictive: “It gives us purpose, meaning, a reason for living.”

Drawing on his own experience and on the literature of combat from Homer to Michael Herr, Hedges shows how war seduces not just those on the front lines but entire societies—corrupting politics, destroying culture, and perverting basic human desires. Mixing hard-nosed realism with profound moral and philosophical insight, *War Is a Force that Gives Us Meaning* is a work of terrible power and redemptive clarity whose truths have never been more necessary.



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## **War Is a Force that Gives Us Meaning** By Chris Hedges Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"The communal march against an enemy generates a warm, unfamiliar bond with our neighbors, our community, our nation, wiping out unsettling undercurrents of alienation and dislocation," writes Chris Hedges, a foreign correspondent for the New York Times. In *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*, Hedges draws on his experiences covering conflicts in Bosnia, El Salvador and Israel as well as works of literature from the Iliad to Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism* to look at what makes war so intoxicating for soldiers, politicians and ordinary citizens. He discusses outbreaks of nationalism, the wartime silencing of intellectuals and artists, the ways in which even a supposedly skeptical press glorifies the battlefield and other universal features of war, arguing not for pacifism but for responsibility and humility on the part of those who wage war.

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From Library Journal

This moving book examines the continuing appeal of war to the human psyche. Veteran New York Times correspondent Hedges argues that, to many people, war provides a purpose for living; it seems to allow the individual to rise above regular life and perhaps participate in a noble cause. Having identified this myth, Hedges then explodes it by showing the brutality of modern war, using examples taken from his own experiences as a war correspondent in Latin America, the Middle East, and the Balkans. These examples highlight the devastating effects of war on life, community, and culture and its corruption of business and government. Hedges is not a pacifist, acknowledging that people need to battle evil, but he thoughtfully cautions us against accepting the accompanying myths of war. This should be required reading in this post-9/11 world as we debate the possibility of war with Iraq. For all libraries.

*Stephen L. Hupp, West Virginia Univ. Lib., Parkersburg*

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Review

"A brilliant, thoughtful, timely and unsettling book. . . . Abounds with Hedges' harrowing and terribly moving eyewitness accounts . . . Powerful and informative." – *The New York Times Book Review*

"The best kind of war journalism: It is bitterly poetic and ruthlessly philosophical. It sends out a powerful message to people contemplating the escalation of the 'war against terrorism.'" – *Los Angeles Times*

"Chris Hedges has written a powerful book, one which bears sad witness to what veterans have long understood . . . [A] somber and timely warning to those – in any society – who would evoke the emotions of war for the pursuit of political gain." —General Wesley K. Clark, former Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and author of **Waging Modern War**

"[A] powerful chronicle of modern war . . . .A persuasive call for humility and realism in the pursuit of national goals by force of arms . . . .a potent and eloquent warning." --*The New York Times*

"No one is in a better position than Hedges to pronounce on the revolting things war does to everyone caught up in it. . . . A confession of rare and frightening honesty." –*Slate.com*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **William Boehme:**

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#### **Keven Peterson:**

Reading a guide tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire all their reader with their story or their experience. Not only the story that share in the publications. But also they write about advantage about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write with their book. One of them is this War Is a Force that Gives Us Meaning.

#### **David Barnett:**

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always aim to and must have the spare time or they will get great deal of stress from both day to day life and work. So , when we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not really a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the particular book you have read is actually War Is a Force that Gives Us Meaning.

#### **Tommy Wright:**

The book untitled War Is a Force that Gives Us Meaning contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains her idea with easy way. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was compiled by famous author. The author brings you in the new age of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice go through.

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