

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning

Chris Hedges War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning: Exploring the Depths of Conflict and Humanity

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning—this provocative statement invites us to delve into the complex relationship between war, human existence, and the search for purpose. Chris Hedges, a renowned journalist, author, and war correspondent, has long examined how conflict shapes societies, identities, and individual lives. His insights challenge us to reconsider war not only as destruction but also as a powerful catalyst that, paradoxically, can give life a profound sense of meaning.

In this article, we'll explore Hedges' compelling perspective on war, unpack the philosophical underpinnings of his assertion, and consider its relevance in today's world. We'll also look at how his experiences reporting from war zones have informed his views, and what lessons we can draw about resilience, morality, and human nature.

Chris Hedges War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning: Understanding the Concept

At first glance, saying that war gives us meaning might seem counterintuitive or even unsettling. After all, war is often associated with death, suffering, and societal collapse. Yet, Chris Hedges argues that war has historically been a crucible where human values, courage, and purpose are forged. It forces individuals and communities to confront their deepest fears and convictions, stripping away superficial distractions.

The Paradox of War and Meaning

Hedges' observation touches on a paradox: war destroys but also reveals. In times of peace, many people struggle with existential questions, feeling disconnected or adrift. War, by contrast, demands clarity of purpose. Soldiers, civilians, and even entire nations rally around causes that define their identity and existence.

This phenomenon is not new. Throughout history, wars have often served as moments of profound transformation. Whether fighting for freedom, survival, or ideology, people find a heightened sense of significance amid chaos. Hedges' reflections come from his firsthand experiences witnessing this dynamic in multiple conflict zones around the world.

The Role of War Correspondence in Shaping Hedges'

Philosophy

Chris Hedges spent decades reporting on wars in places like Bosnia, Iraq, and Palestine. His front-line observations reveal how individuals caught in conflict confront their mortality and values in raw, unfiltered ways. Through his journalism and writing, Hedges captures the ways war exposes both the darkest and most noble parts of human nature.

Witnessing Humanity in Extremis

War correspondents like Hedges experience moments where life's fragility and intensity become starkly visible. These encounters often lead to profound insights about what it means to be human. Hedges describes how soldiers and civilians alike derive a sense of purpose from their roles in conflict, whether defending loved ones or standing up against oppression.

This perspective challenges the simplistic idea that war is purely destructive. Instead, it highlights war as a complex social and psychological phenomenon that can awaken meaning and resolve—albeit at tremendous cost.

Philosophical and Literary Influences on Hedges' View

The idea that conflict bestows meaning is not unique to Hedges but resonates with thinkers across history. Philosophers and writers have long grappled with the relationship between struggle, suffering, and purpose.

Existentialism and the Search for Meaning

Existential philosophers like Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus emphasized the importance of confronting absurdity and chaos to create meaning. War, as an extreme form of chaos, can thus be seen as a stage where individuals are forced to define their essence through action and choice. Hedges' reflections echo this existentialist thread by highlighting war's role in compelling people to face profound questions about life and death.

Literary Echoes: War in Poetry and Prose

Literature has long explored how war shapes human identity. From Wilfred Owen's haunting World War I poetry to Ernest Hemingway's war stories, the theme of finding meaning amid destruction recurs. Hedges draws on this literary tradition to deepen our understanding of war's psychological and spiritual dimensions.

Implications for Modern Society and Conflict

In today's world, where technological warfare and political complexities abound, the idea that war gives us meaning remains relevant but fraught with nuance. Understanding Hedges' viewpoint can help us critically engage with how societies justify conflict and how individuals navigate their roles within it.

The Danger of Romanticizing War

While war can indeed forge meaning, it is crucial to avoid glorifying violence or overlooking its devastating consequences. Hedges himself warns against simplistic narratives that celebrate war without acknowledging its human cost. Recognizing war's dual nature allows us to appreciate its impact without endorsing it uncritically.

Finding Meaning Beyond War

Hedges' work also invites reflection on how meaning might be found outside of conflict. By understanding why war gives meaning—through purpose, community, and confrontation with mortality—we can seek these elements in peaceful ways. This insight encourages building societies where meaning is cultivated through creativity, justice, and connection rather than destruction.

Lessons From Chris Hedges War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning

Exploring this concept offers valuable lessons for individuals and societies trying to make sense of turbulent times.

- **Embrace Complexity:** War and conflict are not simply good or evil; they reveal multifaceted human realities.
- **Seek Purpose:** Just as war forces people to find meaning, individuals can actively cultivate purpose in daily life to combat existential despair.
- **Honor Sacrifice:** Understanding the profound impact of conflict helps us respect those who endure it and work to prevent unnecessary suffering.
- **Promote Peaceful Meaning:** Recognize the need to foster meaning through nonviolent means, building resilient communities and ethical frameworks.

Reflecting on Chris Hedges war is a force that gives us meaning encourages us to confront uncomfortable truths about human nature and society. It challenges us to look beyond surface-level

judgments and engage deeply with the forces that shape our existence.

As we navigate an increasingly complex world, such insights offer guidance on balancing the search for meaning with the imperative to preserve life and promote peace. Understanding the paradox that war can give life meaning while simultaneously threatening it pushes us toward greater empathy, awareness, and responsibility in how we relate to conflict and to one another.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of Chris Hedges' book 'War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning'?

The central theme of 'War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning' is the exploration of how war captivates individuals and societies by providing a sense of purpose, identity, and meaning, despite its inherent destruction and tragedy.

How does Chris Hedges describe the psychological impact of war on soldiers?

Chris Hedges describes the psychological impact of war on soldiers as profound and complex, often involving a mix of fear, adrenaline, camaraderie, and a sense of meaning that can lead to addiction to the experience of combat.

Why does Chris Hedges argue that war is appealing to many people?

Hedges argues that war is appealing because it offers a clear sense of purpose, belonging, and clarity in a chaotic world, fulfilling deep human needs for identity and meaning that are often missing in peacetime.

According to Chris Hedges, what are some dangers of glorifying war?

According to Hedges, glorifying war can lead to the normalization of violence, the sacrifice of moral values, the loss of individual humanity, and the perpetuation of conflict by obscuring its brutal realities.

How does 'War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning' challenge traditional views of war?

The book challenges traditional views by exposing the seductive nature of war and questioning the notion that war is inherently noble or just, instead highlighting its capacity to corrupt, dehumanize, and provide false meaning.

What role does media play in shaping perceptions of war according to Chris Hedges?

Chris Hedges suggests that the media often sanitizes and sensationalizes war, creating myths and narratives that glamorize combat and obscure the true horrors and futility of war.

In what ways does Hedges suggest society can find meaning without war?

Hedges implies that society can find meaning through community, creative expression, social justice, and moral engagement, rather than through the violence and destruction of war.

How is Chris Hedges' personal experience relevant to his perspective in 'War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning'?

Chris Hedges' experience as a war correspondent witnessing conflict firsthand gives him an intimate understanding of war's impact, lending authenticity and depth to his critique of war's seductive and destructive power.

Additional Resources

Chris Hedges: War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning – An Analytical Review

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning is a provocative assertion that challenges conventional perspectives on conflict, human nature, and societal values. This phrase encapsulates the central thesis of Chris Hedges' critical examination of war, portraying it not merely as a destructive phenomenon but as a complex force that shapes identity, purpose, and social cohesion. As a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and former war correspondent, Hedges brings a unique, deeply reflective insight into the paradoxical role war plays in human history and consciousness. This article delves into the nuances of Hedges' argument, exploring the implications of viewing war as a source of meaning, while investigating the broader cultural and psychological dimensions involved.

Understanding Chris Hedges' Perspective on War

Chris Hedges' work often grapples with the existential and moral dilemmas that war presents. His thesis, "war is a force that gives us meaning," originates from a complex understanding of how societies and individuals grapple with chaos and mortality. Unlike the dominant narrative that frames war strictly as a senseless tragedy or geopolitical tool, Hedges invites readers to consider war as a catalyst for meaning-making, identity formation, and communal solidarity.

Hedges draws on his extensive frontline experience and historical analysis to argue that war imposes a brutal clarity on existence. In times of conflict, traditional social structures are upended, but paradoxically, new forms of order and purpose emerge. The violence and sacrifice inherent in war compel individuals to confront profound questions about life, death, and moral responsibility. This confrontation, Hedges suggests, can lead to a form of existential awakening or reaffirmation of

values.

The Psychological Dynamics of War and Meaning

At the core of the argument is the psychological dimension. War's intensity strips away the distractions of everyday life, forcing individuals and communities to engage with fundamental human experiences — fear, courage, loyalty, and loss. Hedges posits that this engagement creates a heightened sense of meaning, often absent in peacetime. The battlefield, with its life-or-death stakes, becomes a crucible where human character and purpose are tested and revealed.

This perspective aligns with certain psychological theories on meaning-making, such as Viktor Frankl's logotherapy, which emphasizes the human capacity to find meaning even in suffering and adversity. War, therefore, acts as a somber context in which meaning is forged through sacrifice and collective struggle.

Historical and Cultural Contexts in Hedges' Analysis

Chris Hedges situates his argument within a broad historical and cultural framework. Throughout history, war has been a persistent force influencing art, religion, politics, and social organization. From ancient epics to modern conflicts, societies have often framed war as a defining moment of identity and purpose.

Hedges explores how warrior cultures across different civilizations have revered the battlefield as a place of honor and transcendence. This cultural valorization of war underscores the paradox that while war devastates, it also shapes narratives of heroism, sacrifice, and communal belonging. The idea that war "gives us meaning" resonates with these traditions, suggesting that conflict is deeply embedded in the human story, not just as destruction but as a source of existential significance.

Critical Examination of the Thesis

While Chris Hedges' argument is compelling in its emotional and philosophical depth, it invites critical scrutiny, especially regarding the ethical and practical consequences of framing war as meaningful.

Pros of Viewing War as Meaningful

- **Psychological Resilience:** Recognizing that war can provide meaning helps individuals and societies cope with trauma and loss, fostering resilience amid suffering.
- **Identity and Unity:** War can unite disparate groups around shared goals and values, strengthening social bonds and collective identity.
- **Historical Awareness:** Understanding the existential role of conflict encourages a nuanced

view of history, beyond simplistic good-versus-evil narratives.

Cons and Ethical Concerns

- **Glorification of Violence:** Suggesting that war gives meaning risks romanticizing conflict and potentially justifying needless violence.
- **Overlooking Alternatives:** Emphasizing war's role in meaning-making might obscure peaceful pathways to purpose and social cohesion.
- **Psychological Damage:** War often results in lasting trauma, PTSD, and societal fragmentation, questioning whether the "meaning" derived outweighs the costs.

Comparisons with Other Thinkers on War and Meaning

Hedges' perspective can be compared with other intellectuals who have explored war's existential dimensions. For example, Ernest Becker's "The Denial of Death" examines how human awareness of mortality drives much of cultural and psychological behavior, including conflict. Similarly, Carl von Clausewitz famously described war as "the continuation of politics by other means," highlighting its instrumental role but not necessarily its existential significance.

Hedges diverges by focusing on the deeply personal and collective search for meaning that war provokes, a theme less emphasized in traditional military theory. His approach bridges journalism, philosophy, and psychology, offering a multidisciplinary lens on the subject.

Relevance in Contemporary Contexts

In today's geopolitical landscape, where conflicts range from conventional wars to asymmetric and cyber warfare, the notion that "war is a force that gives us meaning" retains relevance but also faces new challenges.

Modern Warfare and Meaning

Modern wars often involve complex motivations, including ideological, economic, and geopolitical factors. Unlike classical wars fought for territorial conquest or clear political aims, contemporary conflicts can be fragmented and ambiguous, complicating traditional narratives of heroism and sacrifice.

Hedges' thesis prompts reflection on whether these new forms of war continue to provide existential

meaning or if they contribute instead to disillusionment and alienation. The rise of drone warfare, remote combat, and information warfare creates a psychological distance that might diminish the immediacy and intensity that historically gave war its meaning.

War Reporting and Public Perception

As a war correspondent, Chris Hedges also critiques media portrayals of conflict, which often sanitize or sensationalize war. His perspective encourages a more nuanced understanding that recognizes both the human cost and the profound existential implications.

This insight is particularly important in an era of information overload and polarized media, where public perception of war is shaped by fragmented narratives. Investigative journalism informed by Hedges' views can deepen public discourse and foster a more critical engagement with the realities of war.

Conclusion: The Paradox of War and Meaning

Chris Hedges' assertion that "war is a force that gives us meaning" challenges readers to reconsider deeply ingrained assumptions about conflict. It reveals a paradox where war simultaneously destroys and creates, shatters and unites, kills and instills purpose. This duality is central to understanding not only the historical persistence of war but also its enduring psychological and cultural resonance.

While the ethical complexities and human costs of war remain undeniable, Hedges offers a profound meditation on how, in the midst of violence and chaos, individuals and societies seek and sometimes find meaning. This insight does not justify war but rather illuminates its complex role in the human condition — a force that, even in its darkest moments, compels us to confront the fundamental questions of existence.

[Chris Hedges War Is A Force That Gives Us Meaning](#)

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: War Is a Force that Gives Us Meaning Chris Hedges, 2014-04-08 General George S. Patton famously said, Compared to war all other forms of human endeavor shrink to insignificance. God, I do love it so! Though Patton was a notoriously single-minded general, it is nonetheless a sad fact that war gives meaning to many lives, a fact with which we have become familiar now that America is once again engaged in a military conflict. War is an enticing elixir. It gives us purpose, resolve, a cause. It allows us to be noble. Chris Hedges of The New York Times has seen war up close -- in the Balkans, the Middle East, and Central America -- and he has been troubled by what he has seen: friends, enemies, colleagues, and strangers intoxicated and even addicted to war's heady brew. In War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning, he tackles the ugly truths about humanity's love affair with war, offering a sophisticated, nuanced, intelligent meditation on the subject that is also gritty, powerful, and unforgettable.

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: War and the American Difference Stanley Hauerwas, 2011-10 An esteemed theologian examines how American identity and America's presence in the world are shaped by war.

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: *Muslim Perspectives on Islamophobia* Zouhir Gabsi, 2024-08-06 The Islamic positioning of Islamophobia is presented in this book. Through 'Islamic' or 'Muslim' perspectives, the book engages with various Islamic texts and discourses (spoken and written) emanating from preachers and scholars of Islam to discuss the points of convergence and divergence with the Western interpretation of the phenomenon. The book aims to look at Islamophobia from a hitherto unexplored angle by first analyzing the points of convergence and divergence between the internal (Muslim) and external (Western) perspectives, and then by providing new approaches to curbing Islamophobia through a holistic spiritual dimension of Islam and cultural memory. The book contends that the bridges of understanding between the 'East' and the 'West' can only be built if some of Islam's theological concepts, such as the place of reason in Islam, are reinterpreted by considering the Islamic perspectives. While the book acknowledges previous work on Islamophobia, it contributes to a deeper understanding of Islamophobia in its internal and external manifestations by considering the theoretical frameworks of racism and xenophobia. Readers interested in Islamic studies and anti-racism narratives would find this book's eclectic approach and balanced perspective of the phenomenon informative and enlightening.

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: *Against the Terror of Neoliberalism* Henry A. Giroux, 2015-11-17 With its dream worlds of power, commercialization, and profit making, neoliberalism has ushered in new Gilded Age in which the logic of the market now governs every aspect of media, culture, and social life-from schooling to health care to old age. As the social contract becomes a distant memory, the new corporate state distances itself from workers and minority groups, who become more disposable in a new age of uncertainty and manufactured fear. This is the only book to connect the history, ideology, and consequences of neoliberal policies to education and cultural issues that pervade almost every aspect of daily life. A significantly revised and updated new version of Giroux's 2003 book, *The Terror of Neoliberalism*, this book points to ways in which neoliberal ideology can be resisted, and how new forms of citizenship and collective struggles can be forged, to reclaim the meaning both of a substantive politics and of a democratic society. *Against the Terror of Neoliberalism* was featured in the New York Times in the Stanley Fish blog: Stanley Fish Blog

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: *Practical Pacifism* Andrew Fiala, 2004 The United States has a unique responsibility and opportunity to use democracy to end war; but, after 9/11, many can no longer imagine pacifism in any form. *Practical Pacifism* argues for an approach to peace that aims beyond religion toward a moral consensus that is developed pragmatically through dialogue aimed at overlapping consensus.

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: *Property Rights and Sustainability* David Grinlinton, Prue Taylor, 2011-04-11 Published with the support of The New Zealand Law Foundation. As collapses and crises involving ecological systems, economic and financial management and international governance increase, the need for bold alternatives to traditional economic and legal responses has never been more urgent. Property concepts are an important element in the interaction between humans and the natural environment. An important driver of ecological harm, property concepts can also become a powerful tool for responding to ecological problems in ways that have so far eluded both government regulators and markets. Going beyond the traditional critiques of liberal property theories, *Property Rights and Sustainability* takes on the challenge of fundamentally reconceptualising property rights and systems. It makes a significant contribution to rebalancing the legal framework in a way that recognises humanity as a member of a larger ecological order, the health and integrity of which is of primary importance to the long-term viability of our planet. *Property Rights and Sustainability* will be an indispensable resource for those interested in the relationship between property law and the environment, and the ways in which property law can be reshaped to respond to the ecological challenges of our time.

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: *The Future of Interfaith Dialogue* Yazeed Said, Yazid Said, Lejla Demiri, 2018-08-30 Provides insightful discussions of the exegetic and discursive process begun by the open letter *A Common Word Between Us and You*.

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: Cities Under Siege Stephen Graham, 2011-11-01 Cities are the new battleground of our increasingly urban world. From the slums of the global South to the wealthy financial centers of the West, Cities Under Siege traces the spread of political violence through the sites, spaces, infrastructure and symbols of the world's rapidly expanding metropolitan areas. Drawing on a wealth of original research, Stephen Graham shows how Western militaries and security forces now perceive all urban terrain as a conflict zone inhabited by lurking shadow enemies. Urban inhabitants have become targets that need to be continually tracked, scanned and controlled. Graham examines the transformation of Western armies into high-tech urban counter-insurgency forces. He looks at the militarization and surveillance of international borders, the use of 'security' concerns to suppress democratic dissent, and the enacting of legislation to suspend civilian law. In doing so, he reveals how the New Military Urbanism permeates the entire fabric of urban life, from subway and transport networks hardwired with high-tech 'command and control' systems to the insidious militarization of a popular culture corrupted by the all-pervasive discourse of 'terrorism.'

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: Power in World Politics Felix Berenskoetter, M. J. Williams, 2007-11-06 Featuring contributions from both upcoming and distinguished scholars, including Steven Lukes, Joseph Nye, and Stefano Guzzini, this volume explores the nature and location of 'power' in international politics through a variety of conceptual lenses.

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: Sharing Peace Margaret R. Pfeil, Gerald W. Schlabach, 2013-06-30 Sharing Peace brings together leading Mennonite and Catholic theologians and ecclesial leaders to reflect on the recent, first-ever international dialogue between the Mennonite World Conference and the Vatican. The search for a shared reading of history, theology of the church and its sacraments or ordinances, and understandings of Christ's call to be peacemakers are its most prominent themes. Contributors include: Scott Appleby (Kroc Institute, Notre Dame) Alan Kreider (Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary) Helmut Harder (Mennonite co-chair of the international dialogue) Drew Christiansen, SJ (Georgetown University, Catholic delegate to the international dialogue) John Roth (Goshen College) John Cavadini (University of Notre Dame) C. Arnold Snyder (University of Waterloo) Mary Doak (University of San Diego) Elizabeth Groppe (Xavier University) Thomas Finger (author of A Contemporary Anabaptist Theology) Bishop Gabino Zavala (past president of Pax Christi USA) Duane Friesen (Bethel College, Kansas) Gerald Schlabach (University of St. Thomas) Mary Schertz (Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary) Abbot John Klassen, OSB (Saint John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota; co-chair of Bridgefolk) Margaret R. Pfeil is assistant professor of moral theology at the University of Notre Dame and a Faculty Fellow of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. She specializes in Catholic social thought. She is also a cofounder and resident of St. Peter Claver Catholic Worker House in South Bend, Indiana, and is on the board of Bridgefolk, a movement of Mennonites and Roman Catholics who come together to celebrate each other's practices and honor each other's contributions to the mission of Christ's church. Gerald W. Schlabach is professor of theology and director of the Justice and Peace Studies program at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is cofounder and executive director of Bridgefolk. His books include Just Policing, Not War: An Alternative Response to World Violence (Liturgical Press, 2007) and Unlearning Protestantism: Sustaining Christian Community in an Unstable Age.

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: Healthy Recipes and Provocative Worldviews Tiffany Twain, 2013-01-24 This is a cookbook that contains some of the healthiest recipes ever invented, and they create food that is delicious! In addition, this collection of essays provides figurative recipes for our nation to create a better world through an embrace of holistic, fair-minded and farsighted perspectives with a deep appreciation of feminine vision and common sense fairness. The provocative worldviews included with these recipes include some advice to the Tea Party and Occupy Movements, and there are also several compendiums of prescriptions for how we could improve our societies by fairly fixing our Social Security and healthcare systems, and by

advancing a progressive agenda for a more sane humanity. These ideas would help guide us forward toward achieving goals that are in best interests of almost everyone now alive, and all in future generations.

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: *Life at the End of Us Versus Them* Marcus Peter Rempel, 2017-11-06 Our present moment can no longer sustain a stable “us” defined against an alien “them.” So say René Girard and Ivan Illich, radical critics of both Christianity and culture. If they are right, this makes our time an endtime. The end of us against them can deteriorate into the chaos of each against each, or it can open outward into freely chosen communion. It is an expectant—and apocalyptic—time. How does one live in this strange, endtime world? As a wanderer in the odd, cross-culture country Girard and Illich have mapped, the author finds himself in a surprising new place in relation to those who are his other: women, queer folk, refugees, Muslims, atheists, and Indigenous people. In this collection of essays, he blinks, looks around, and makes some field notes.

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: *Darwin and International Relations* Bradley A. Thayer, 2014-07-11 Pathbreaking and controversial, *Darwin and International Relations* offers the first comprehensive analysis of international affairs of state through the lens of evolutionary theory. Bradley A. Thayer provides a new method for investigating and explaining human and state behavior while generating insights into the origins of human and animal warfare, ethnic conflict, and the influence of disease on international relations. Using ethnological and statistical studies of warfare among tribal societies, Thayer argues that humans wage war for reasons predicted by evolutionary theory—to gain and protect vital resources but also for the physically and emotionally stimulating effects of combat. Thayer demonstrates that an evolutionary understanding of disease will become a more important part of the study of international relations as new strains of diseases emerge and advances in genetics make biological warfare a more effective weapon for states and terrorists. He also explains the deep causes of ethnic conflict by illuminating how xenophobia and ethnocentrism evolved in humans. He notes that these behaviors once contributed to our ancestors' success in radically different environments, but they remain a part of us. *Darwin and International Relations* makes a major contribution to our understanding of human history and the future of international relations.

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: *Enough Blood Shed* Mary-Wynne Ashford, 2006-05-01 *Enough Blood Shed* confronts the reality of a world awash in weapons and the belief that war is inevitable, with people powerless to change the system. It provides an alternative perspective based on solutions known to be successful because they have been used already. The first part of the book describes the culture of violence that has led the world to this precipice of hopelessness, and then points to signs of hope that a different future is possible. It outlines the steps being made to build a culture of peace, including the phenomenal power of civil society: the second superpower - or the conscience of society. Part Two then focuses on the solutions that are possible for all sectors of society: For individuals, including women, children and youth For schools, educators, activist groups and religious organizations For the media, professionals, business and labor For cities, nations and the global community Focusing on the power of ordinary people to make a difference and packed with effective nonviolent success stories - often in a setting of hate and provocation - the book provides guidance, inspiration, hope and empowerment that peace is not only possible, but can be fun along the way.

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: *Poetic Heroes* Mark S. Smith, 2014-09-15 Warfare exerts a magnetic power, even a terrible attraction, in its emphasis on glory, honor, and duty. In order to face the terror of war, it is necessary to face how our biblical traditions have made it attractive -- even alluring. In this book Mark Smith undertakes an extensive exploration of poetic heroes across a number of ancient cultures in order to understand the attitudes of those cultures toward war and warriors. Smith examines the Iliad and the Gilgamesh; Ugaritic poems commemorating Baal, Aqhat, and the Rephaim; and early biblical poetry, including the battle hymn of Judges 5 and the lament of David over Saul and Jonathan in 2 Samuel 1. Smith's *Poetic Heroes*

analyzes the importance of heroic poetry in early Israel and its disappearance after the time of David, building on several strands of scholarship in archaeological research, poetic analysis, and cultural reconstruction.

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: Towards a Just and Ecologically Sustainable Peace Joseph Camilleri, Deborah Guess, 2020-08-13 This book addresses the need to develop a holistic approach to countering violence that integrates notions of peace, justice and care of the Earth. It is unique in that it does not stop with the move toward articulating 'Just Peace' as a human concern but probes the mindset needed for the shift to a 'Just and Ecologically Sustainable Peace'. It explores the values and principles that can guide this shift, theoretically and in practice. International in scope and grounded in the reality of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia and the wider Asia-Pacific context, the book brings together important insights drawn from the Indigenous relationship to land, ecological feminism, ecological philosophy, the social sciences more generally, and a range of religious and non-religious cosmologies. Drawn from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, the contributors in this book apply their combined professional expertise and active engagement to illuminate the difficult choices that lie ahead.

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: Young Men and Masculinities Victor J. Seidler, 2013-07-04 In this book Victor J Seidler, one of the leading contributors to the growing debate about masculinities, turns his attention to the lives of young men and their understandings of themselves as gendered beings. By contextualizing their experiences and subjectivities within a rapidly globalizing world, Seidler pays particular attention to the impact of the global media. How does the mass circulation of images of men's bodies, desires and sexualities affect their self-perception and behaviours, and how are these images framed within particular histories, cultures and traditions? Questioning universalist theories of 'hegemonic masculinities', the book argues that young men often feel caught between prevailing masculinities and their own struggle for self-definition. It explores both how the idea of men as 'the First Sex' has been established within the West and the ways in which men in other cultures and societies affirm their gendered identities. Seidler pioneers new methodologies that involve listening to the silences surrounding male experience as well as to oral testimonies. This enables innovative analysis of the contradictions young men are faced with in both creating their own gendered identities and establishing more equal relationships within a world of intense inequalities.

chris hedges war is a force that gives us meaning: The State of the American Mind: Stupor and Pathetic Docility Amechi Okolo PhD, 2010-06-10 This book, The State of the American Mind: Stupor and Pathetic Docility Volume One begins to unravel some of the most obvious, perplexing, embarrassing and enduring problems and contradictions of American history and sociology, viz., how could the American revolution that started with the most ringing and most inspiring Declarations of human equality in world history end up establishing the most vicious, exploitative society the world ever knew Black chattel slavery and only ten percent white enfranchisement, etc. Further, how could men of such great wisdom and intellect like George Washington, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, and others who were Enlightenment scholars and clearly knew that slavery was despicable and evil, because they had variously experienced white servitude and slavery themselves, collude to establish and institutionalize the horrible system of Negro chattel slavery in America; and also disenfranchised over 90 percent of people of their own race actions that racism could not explain. The structural/institutional slavery system they established, and the resultant consequent racism hobbles America today as it did in the past, and forced Eric Holder, the Attorney General to declare that, America is a nation of cowards, when it comes to race discussions. Thus, this book starts with serious critical discussions of race in America and reveals what no textbook has ever done, viz., that most early American whites and Blacks were slaves an uncomfortable fact that would shock most Americans because it contradicts the orthodoxy or the dominant narrative that only Blacks were brought here in chains. Further, the book also shows the year Black slavery started something almost, all textbooks got wrong. It also shows who, was the first Black slave in America something no textbook ever mentions. It also shows when and

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