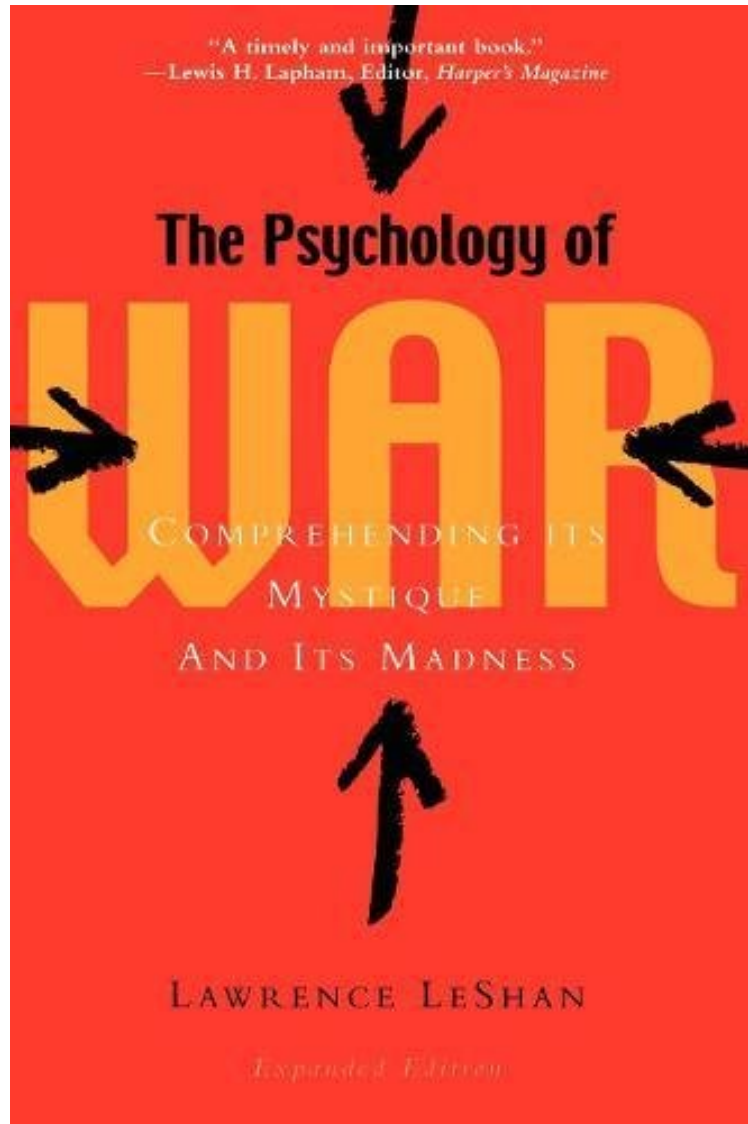


The Psychology of War: Comprehending Its Mystique and Its Madness

Lawrence Leshan

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Lawrence Leshan : The Psychology of War: Comprehending Its Mystique and Its Madness before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Psychology of War: Comprehending Its Mystique and Its Madness:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's really this simple By John Rogers As the author lucidly points out, at least two of the realities people operate in are sensory (daily) reality and mythic reality. In sensory reality you buy

bread at the store, put a bandaid on a cut, and a million other day-to-day things having a whole range of values (rye, white, whole grain, etc. bread; strip, clear, round, waterproof, antibiotic, etc. bandaids and so on). In mythic reality you slip into the great error of the Excluded Middle and it's as if there are only two values - the right and the wrong. This book opened a world of ideas to me. Certainly religion could not be explained as mythic reality, and the hateful angry politics we see today is not a mythic reality. Not as long as people, through emotion not reason, insist it's the "real" reality. And the religious wars of the 16th and 17th Centuries (and the Crusades before that) were in no way grounded in mythic realities. Oh yeah, and the angry one-star reviews on this book do not reflect a mythic reality. Read them. Can't you people see what's right and what's wrong?! Can't you see this author is wrong! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By Amandine poncin Interesting, but lacks scientific rigor. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good; broad coverage By C J I'm an early-retiree psychology prof who continues to teach on a limited basis. My favorite course is on the human response to war. I'm always looking for readings for my students (who come from all majors) that I think do a good job of explaining the psychology of those who advocate, argue against, make profits from, send their children to, participate in, try to make sense of, and are victimized by war. I've used more than one reading from this book. It's pretty good.

Our wars have become more lethal, yet the affinity for war hasn't changed. Why? As the entire world anticipates a lengthy war against terrorism, this intriguing study provides a new understanding of why people fight wars so frequently and ferociously. Former military psychologist Lawrence LeShan's piercing analysis reveals why war is often chosen over more peaceful solutions, and why it is so easy to get into a war and so hard to get out. Can peace be planned? How can we devise an "early warning system" for war? Are some government structures more prone to war than others?