

(Read ebook) War, Evil, and the End of History

War, Evil, and the End of History

Bernard Henri Levy, Charlotte Mandell
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Bernard Henri Levy, Charlotte Mandell : War, Evil, and the End of History before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised War, Evil, and the End of History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Art Fan Brilliant. 27 of 36 people found the following review helpful. Connects 9/11 to Long Era of Imperial Deceit Predatory Looting By Robert David STEELE Vivas Edit of 20 Dec 07 to connect to more recent books. There are some gems in this book, but it is *not* anywhere near the kind of blindingly brilliant, deeply philosophical work that the publicists would have you believe. He is a talented and very

wealthy (inherited wealth) Frenchman of the Jewish faith who could be called the Bill Gates of French philosophy, with first-rate marketing. The author is clearly a courageous and inquisitive individual, and I would rank him third, after Robert Young Pelton and Robert Kaplan, in the "journalist-philosopher-adventurer" category. He has been to all of these places, he has seen with his own eyes, and he writes thoughtfully, if often tediously, about what he has seen. The real gem in the book is the connection he makes between 9-11 and our deliberate ignorance of the many wars, genocides, crimes against women and children, torture, corruption, etcetera that we in the West have manifested. He writes with conviction and insight about the "meaningless war" across Africa, South Asia, around the globe, where entire regions have descended into a chaotic hell of kill and be killed, work and die, slavery or death, rape then death. His point, which I like very much, is that history does not end, it recycles, and in 9-11 and the global war on terrorism what we have is a "homecoming" of all these wars to America and its Western allies. This is not, however, completely original, in the sense that the "Map of World Conflict Human Rights" that I have been handing out to my adult students (thanks to Bert Jongman in The Netherlands for creating it, and to the European Centre for Conflict Prevention and Goals for Americans Foundation, among others, for funding its creation) ably documents all of this in a single compelling document, and many books in the 490+ that I have reviewed cover all aspects of these "ungovernable regions" in great detail. The author is half absurd and half correct when he condemns the United Nations for its zealous pursuit of Israel as a racist and terrorist state, while the United Nations largely ignores the many genocides taking place from Russia and China to Indonesia and Brazil and Central America and onwards. He is absurd on the first count, correct on the second. The book is fully worth four stars, definitely worth purchasing, for its articulation of a European view on "the heart of darkness" as it exists today. I was especially taken with his discussion of Buddhist versus Hindu terrorism and extremism and the use of child soldiers in Sri Lanka, since it makes the point that other religions, not just Islam and Christianity, spawn cycles of terrorism and ethnic violence. The book concludes on a note worthy of the greatest philosophers, a reflection on the death of memory within Western civilization, the death of *moral* memory. Having just returned from Denver, where I was privileged to observe a two-week Office of Personnel Management course on National Security, a first-class endeavor, I was struck by the recurring theme, across virtually all of the world-class lecturers: "morality matters." Morality has a tangible value in helping nations, organizations, and individuals "get it right." The last two pages of the book are the best, and conjure up clear and frightening pictures of billions of dispossessed swarming over the European and US cities, bringing the despair we have ignored to our doorstep. Ignore history, ignore evil, and it will eventually, inevitably, come to your doorstep. We--or perhaps even more sadly, our children and grandchildren--will pay for our moral cowardice and our historical blindness. In these final reflections, the author does demonstrate a brilliance that requires us to attend to his future reflections. More recent books supportive of this author's insights: *Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA* *Web of Deceit: The History of Western Complicity in Iraq, from Churchill to Kennedy to George W. Bush* *The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11* (Vintage) *9/11 Synthetic Terror: Made in USA, Fourth Edition* *The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic* (The American Empire Project) *The Fifty-Year Wound: How America's Cold War Victory Has Shaped Our World* *War Is a Racket: The Anti-War Classic by America's Most Decorated General, Two Other Anti-Interventionist Tracts, and Photographs from the Horror of It* *Blood Money: Wasted Billions, Lost Lives, and Corporate Greed in Iraq* *Rumsfeld: His Rise, Fall, and Catastrophic Legacy*

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Magnificent
By Julian
After seeing the author on TV I was intrigued enough to buy all three of his books -- sadly, his newest, *American Vertigo*, was terrible. It seemed all the more so, however, in comparison with his other two books, which were both wonderful. *Who Killed Daniel Pearl* was a real thriller and very smart, but this book, *War, Evil, and the End of History*, was absolutely brilliant. It seems to be almost a model for American vertigo - reporting, followed by philosophical consideration of the reporting. But this book is about people and places that really matter -- Darfur, Sri Lanka, etc., not Sharon Stone and Warren Beatty. It is brave work -- Levy went to some very dangerous places -- and his writing about those places is stirring and beautiful. Thought provoking and like a trip to a totally different world and way of thinking; it made me see the world differently. Skip the new ones, read the old ones, especially this one.

From the maverick author of the international bestseller *Who Killed Daniel Pearl?* "a gripping blend of reportage and philosophy," according to *The New York Times* comes another startlingly original work of literature. In *WAR, EVIL AND THE END OF HISTORY*, Bernard-Henri Lvy continues his daring investigation into the breeding grounds of terrorism with a series of riveting first-person reports from five of the world's most horrific "forgotten" war zones. In Sri Lanka, he conducts a clandestine interview with a terrified young woman escaped from a suicide-bomber training camp . . . he journeys, blindfolded, into the Colombian jungle to interview a psychotic drug lord who considers himself the successor to Che Guevara and fronts a bloodthirsty "guerilla" army . . . Lvy surreptitiously observes the nameless slaves working the diamond mines that fund an endless war in Angola . . . airdrops into a rebel stronghold in the blockaded Nuba mountains of the Sudan . . . and reports on the ongoing carnage in Burundi between Hutus and Tutsis. But Lvy is more than just a journalist: as France's leading philosopher, he follows the reports with a series of intensely personal and probing "reflections" considering how, in an enlightened, cultured, and well-informed society, these wars

have acquired such a perverse "non-meaning." He considers war literature from Stendhal, Hemingway, Proust and others, and issues an excoriating response to those who have glorified it. He reconsiders his own background as a student revolutionary in Paris in May 1968, and as a 22-year-old war reporter in Bangladesh. And, in one of the book's most moving passages, he recounts his travels with Ahmad Massoud, the anti-Taliban Afghan leader assassinated hours before the September 11 attacks. Already a huge bestseller in Europe, **WAR, EVIL, AND THE END OF HISTORY** is the work of a scintillating intellect at the height of its powers. Bernard-Henri Lvy's previous book foresaw today's headlines about Pakistan's secret trading of nuclear technology and the nexus of terrorist groups behind the murder of Daniel Pearl. **WAR, EVIL, AND THE END OF HISTORY** is his brilliant foray into the next danger zones.