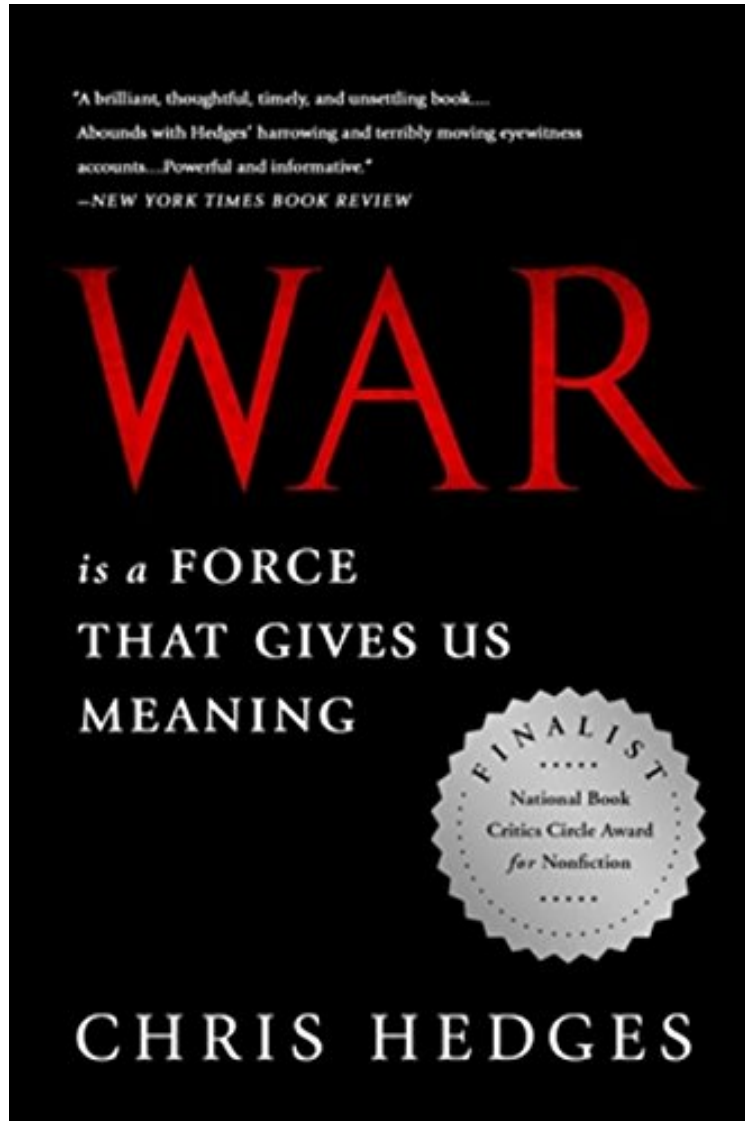


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War Is a Force that Gives Us Meaning

Chris Hedges

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Chris Hedges : War Is a Force that Gives Us Meaning before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised War Is a Force that Gives Us Meaning:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The book is slathered thick with a melancholic reflection on ...By fjnessThe book is slathered thick with a melancholic reflection on human behavior. Chris Hedges book implicitly argued for Rene Girard's thesis on violence as the catalyst for culture. War, because we engage in the taboo together, gets us high on power. In that high, we forget that we have differences and focus our anger on the scapegoat of our

problems--the enemy.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thought ProvokingBy Brittany EvansAlthough I don't completely agree with Chris Hedges ideas in this book, I can say that his writing is terrific. Beginning with the introduction all the way through the last chapter I found myself entranced by his experiences and challenging my own preconceived ideas of history and war.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Richard Walker6 CD's of very mind-opening accounts of real life experiences.

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 societiescorrupting 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.

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. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalThis 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 Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Bitterly poetic and ruthlessly philosophical. A powerful message to people contemplating the escalation of the 'war against terrorism.'" ---Los Angeles Times