

the forever war by dexter filkins

The Enduring Impact of The Forever War by Dexter Filkins

the forever war by dexter filkins is more than just a compelling read; it's a profound exploration of modern conflict through the eyes of a seasoned journalist. Filkins, a Pulitzer Prize-winning correspondent, takes readers on a gripping journey through the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, blending vivid storytelling with insightful reportage. His book stands out as a crucial piece for anyone seeking to understand the complex realities of 21st-century warfare, especially the human costs and geopolitical intricacies often missed in mainstream media coverage.

The Context Behind The Forever War by Dexter Filkins

To truly appreciate *The Forever War* by Dexter Filkins, it's important to grasp the backdrop against which it was written. Filkins reported extensively from war-torn regions during the early 2000s, a period marked by the U.S.-led invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq following the September 11 attacks. These conflicts signaled a new era of warfare—one characterized by asymmetric battles, insurgencies, and the blurred lines between combatants and civilians.

Filkins' firsthand accounts provide an unfiltered perspective, revealing the chaos and complexity that define these prolonged conflicts. His work captures not only the strategic and political dimensions but also the emotional and psychological toll on soldiers, civilians, and journalists alike.

What Sets The Forever War by Dexter Filkins Apart?

Unlike many war correspondents who focus on military strategies or political analysis, Filkins dives deep into the human stories behind the headlines. His writing is raw, honest, and often harrowing, which helps readers connect with the realities of war on a personal level.

A Journalist's Eye on the Ground

Filkins' unique vantage point as a reporter embedded in conflict zones allows him to document events as they unfold. This immediacy lends a gripping authenticity to his narrative. Readers get to witness the dangers faced by journalists covering war, the unpredictability of combat zones, and the fragile nature of truth in wartime.

Exploring the Psychological Impact of War

One compelling element in *The Forever War* by Dexter Filkins is his exploration of trauma—not just physical injuries but the deep psychological scars borne by those involved. From soldiers grappling with fear and loss to civilians caught in the crossfire, Filkins paints a nuanced picture of suffering that

often goes unnoticed.

Key Themes in The Forever War by Dexter Filkins

Filkins' book touches on several important themes that resonate beyond the immediate context of Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Endless Cycle of Conflict

The title itself, *The Forever War*, reflects the seemingly unending nature of these conflicts. Filkins illustrates how the wars stretch on without clear resolution, fueled by complex political motives and entrenched hostilities. Understanding this “forever” aspect helps readers grasp why these wars feel so exhausting and unresolved even years later.

The Fog of War and Media Challenges

War zones are notoriously difficult environments for accurate reporting. Filkins discusses how misinformation, propaganda, and the chaos of battle complicate efforts to tell a truthful story. His reflections provide valuable insight into the ethical and practical challenges war correspondents face daily.

Humanizing the Enemy and the Civilians

Rather than presenting a black-and-white portrayal, Filkins humanizes all sides of the conflict. He shares stories of individuals from various backgrounds, helping readers see beyond stereotypes and understand the shared humanity amid violence.

Why The Forever War by Dexter Filkins Remains Relevant Today

Even years after its publication, *The Forever War* by Dexter Filkins continues to resonate. The nature of warfare has evolved, but many of the core issues he highlights—such as the complexities of insurgency, the consequences of foreign intervention, and the personal costs of conflict—remain urgent.

For students of international relations, journalism, or history, this book offers a valuable case study in modern warfare. It also serves as a reminder of the importance of courageous journalism in shedding light on difficult truths.

Lessons for Aspiring War Correspondents

Filkins' experiences offer guidance for journalists aiming to cover conflict zones responsibly:

- **Prioritize safety:** Understanding the risks and preparing accordingly is vital when working in dangerous environments.
- **Maintain integrity:** Strive for accuracy and fairness, even when access or information is limited.
- **Empathy matters:** Humanizing stories helps bridge cultural divides and deepen public understanding.

Understanding the Human Cost of War

One of the most enduring takeaways from *The Forever War* by Dexter Filkins is the emphasis on the human dimension of conflict. Beyond political rhetoric and military strategies lie countless untold stories of loss, resilience, and hope. Recognizing this human cost encourages a more compassionate and informed dialogue about war and peace.

Recommended Readings and Related Works

If *The Forever War* by Dexter Filkins piques your interest, there are several other works that complement its themes and provide broader context:

- *"The Looming Tower"* by Lawrence Wright – A detailed history of events leading up to 9/11.
- *"Black Hawk Down"* by Mark Bowden – A gripping account of the Battle of Mogadishu.
- *"War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning"* by Chris Hedges – A philosophical exploration of the nature of war.

Exploring these titles alongside Filkins' work offers a richer understanding of the complexities and consequences of modern conflicts.

The Forever War by Dexter Filkins remains a powerful testament to the enduring challenges of war reporting and the ongoing struggles faced by those living through some of the world's most difficult conflicts. Its blend of personal narrative, investigative journalism, and thoughtful analysis ensures it holds a permanent place in the literature on contemporary warfare.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Forever War' by Dexter Filkins about?

'The Forever War' by Dexter Filkins is a non-fiction book that provides an in-depth account of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, focusing on the experiences of soldiers, journalists, and civilians caught in the ongoing conflicts.

Who is Dexter Filkins, the author of 'The Forever War'?

Dexter Filkins is an acclaimed American journalist and war correspondent known for his frontline reporting in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is a staff writer for The New Yorker and has received multiple awards for his war coverage.

What themes does 'The Forever War' explore?

The book explores themes such as the brutality and complexity of modern warfare, the human cost of conflict, the moral ambiguities faced by soldiers and civilians, and the impact of prolonged military engagements on societies.

How does Dexter Filkins' background influence 'The Forever War'?

Filkins' extensive experience as a war correspondent allows him to provide firsthand, detailed, and nuanced perspectives on the conflicts, offering readers a vivid and authentic understanding of the realities on the ground.

What makes 'The Forever War' different from other war books?

'The Forever War' stands out for its immersive narrative style, combining personal stories with broader geopolitical analysis, and for its honest portrayal of the chaos and confusion inherent in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Has 'The Forever War' received any notable awards or recognition?

Yes, 'The Forever War' has been widely praised by critics and has won awards such as the National Book Critics Circle Award for nonfiction, highlighting its significance in war journalism.

What impact has 'The Forever War' had on public understanding of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars?

The book has deepened public awareness by providing a humanized and detailed account of the conflicts, challenging simplistic narratives and encouraging readers to consider the long-term consequences of war.

Is 'The Forever War' suitable for readers new to the topic of Middle Eastern conflicts?

Yes, while the book contains complex details, Filkins' clear and engaging writing makes it accessible for readers unfamiliar with the wars, offering a comprehensive introduction through compelling storytelling.

What storytelling techniques does Dexter Filkins use in 'The Forever War'?

Filkins employs immersive journalism, vivid character portraits, and chronological narrative to convey the emotional and physical realities of war, blending personal accounts with contextual analysis.

Where can readers find 'The Forever War' by Dexter Filkins?

'The Forever War' is available in bookstores, online retailers like Amazon, and digital platforms as an ebook and audiobook.

Additional Resources

The Enduring Impact of "The Forever War" by Dexter Filkins: A Critical Review

the forever war by dexter filkins stands as a seminal work in contemporary war journalism, offering an unvarnished insight into the prolonged conflicts that have shaped the early 21st century. Filkins, a Pulitzer Prize-winning correspondent, delivers a deeply immersive narrative that transcends traditional war reporting, blending firsthand experience with meticulous investigation. This article explores the profound significance of "The Forever War," its narrative structure, thematic depth, and its standing within the broader context of war literature and journalism.

Understanding "The Forever War" by Dexter Filkins

At its core, "The Forever War" chronicles the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq post-9/11, providing a granular perspective on the human and geopolitical dimensions of these enduring wars. Filkins' work is not merely a recounting of battles or military strategies; it is a profound exploration of the chaos, moral ambiguity, and human cost that define modern warfare. His reportage captures the volatile nature of asymmetrical warfare and the complexities faced by soldiers, civilians, and policymakers alike.

Filkins' narrative is distinguished by its immersive approach — he embeds himself within war zones, forging relationships with combatants and locals to present a multi-faceted view. This method allows readers to grasp the intricacies often lost in mainstream media coverage, such as the daily unpredictability soldiers endure and the fractured landscapes of post-invasion societies.

Contextualizing the Title: The Endless Nature of Modern Conflict

The title "The Forever War" resonates on multiple levels. It encapsulates the idea that these conflicts lack clear endpoints, echoing the sentiments expressed about the "War on Terror" as a perpetual struggle without defined victory conditions. Filkins' work reflects on how the initial objectives of military intervention evolved into protracted engagements, marked by shifting alliances, insurgencies, and political instability.

This framing challenges readers to reconsider the traditional narratives of war heroism and triumph, instead confronting the exhaustion and disillusionment prevalent among soldiers and civilians. By emphasizing the concept of an endless war, Filkins critiques the strategic and ideological frameworks that have perpetuated conflict in the Middle East.

Analytical Themes in "The Forever War" by Dexter Filkins

Several key themes emerge in Filkins' narrative, each contributing to the book's rich analytical tapestry.

The Human Dimension of War

One of the most compelling aspects of "The Forever War" is its focus on the human stories behind the headlines. Filkins highlights the psychological toll on soldiers, many of whom grapple with trauma, fear, and an ambiguous sense of purpose amid chaotic combat environments. Likewise, the civilians caught in the crossfire endure unimaginable hardships, with their lives upended by violence and political upheaval.

Filkins' portrayal avoids simplistic dichotomies of good versus evil, instead presenting a nuanced depiction of individuals navigating moral complexities. This human-centric approach fosters empathy and challenges readers to understand the war beyond abstract statistics or policy debates.

Geopolitical Complexity and Unintended Consequences

"The Forever War" also delves into the geopolitical intricacies that underlie the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Filkins examines how foreign interventions, often driven by strategic interests or ideological motives, have precipitated unintended consequences, including sectarian violence, the rise of extremist groups, and regional destabilization.

His investigative reporting sheds light on the failures of intelligence, governance, and diplomacy that contributed to the protracted nature of the wars. By doing so, Filkins critiques the efficacy of military solutions in addressing deeply rooted political and social challenges.

Media Representation and War Narratives

Filkins' book implicitly interrogates the role of media in shaping public perceptions of war. Unlike sanitized or propagandistic accounts, "The Forever War" offers gritty, unfiltered reportage that exposes the contradictions and horrors of combat. This stands in contrast to coverage that often simplifies conflicts or focuses on strategic victories.

Through vivid storytelling and candid interviews, the book underscores the importance of independent journalism in fostering informed discourse and accountability during wartime.

Comparative Insights: "The Forever War" Among War Literature

When juxtaposed with other notable works of war literature and journalism, "The Forever War" distinguishes itself through its contemporary relevance and immersive style. Unlike historical accounts or memoirs centered on a single perspective, Filkins' reporting spans multiple fronts and voices, providing a panoramic view of modern conflict.

In comparison to classics like Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried" or Sebastian Junger's "War," Filkins' work leans heavily on journalistic rigor while maintaining a narrative depth that engages readers emotionally and intellectually. This blend enhances its appeal both as a historical document and a literary achievement.

Strengths and Limitations

- **Strengths:** The book's detailed firsthand accounts, ethical inquiry, and balanced portrayal of all sides contribute to its credibility and impact. Filkins' ability to humanize complex geopolitical issues makes it accessible to a broad audience.
- **Limitations:** Some critics argue that the book's dense narrative and detailed reportage may overwhelm readers unfamiliar with the geopolitical context. Additionally, its focus on Afghanistan and Iraq might leave out broader considerations of global conflict dynamics.

Impact on War Journalism and Public Discourse

"The Forever War" has influenced both journalistic practices and public understanding of modern warfare. Its unflinching honesty sets a benchmark for war correspondents, emphasizing the necessity of bearing witness even in dangerous environments. The book also encourages policymakers and citizens to grapple with the realities of military engagement beyond political rhetoric.

By humanizing the consequences of protracted conflict, Filkins contributes to a more nuanced public

discourse, potentially shaping attitudes toward interventionism and veterans' issues.

Ultimately, "The Forever War" by Dexter Filkins remains a critical resource for comprehending the complexities and enduring nature of contemporary warfare. Its investigative depth and narrative power offer lessons that extend beyond its immediate subject matter, resonating with ongoing global debates about conflict, security, and human rights.

The Forever War By Dexter Filkins

the forever war by dexter filkins: *The Forever War* Dexter Filkins, 2008-09-16 NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER • NATIONAL BESTSELLER • The definitive account of America's conflict with Islamic fundamentalism and a searing exploration of its human costs—an instant classic of war reporting from the Pulitzer Prize winning journalist. Through the eyes of Dexter Filkins, a foreign correspondent for the New York Times, we witness the rise of the Taliban in the 1990s, the aftermath of the attack on New York on September 11th, and the American wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Filkins is the only American journalist to have reported on all these events, and his experiences are conveyed in a riveting narrative filled with unforgettable characters and astonishing scenes. Brilliant and fearless, *The Forever War* is not just about America's wars after 9/11, but about the nature of war itself.

the forever war by dexter filkins: The Forever War Dexter Filkins, 2008 Offers an understanding of the War on Terror, its victims, and the people who fight it. In this work, readers witness the events that began with the rise of the Taliban in the 1990s, led to the September 11 attacks in 2001, and culminated in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

the forever war by dexter filkins: Mythos Cyberwar Thomas Rid, 2018-03-26 Der Politikwissenschaftler Thomas Rid ist sich sicher: Ein Cyberkrieg findet nicht statt. Den bisher dokumentierten Cyberattacken fehlen die zielgerichtete Gewalt gegen Menschen und die brutale Zerstörung, die untrennbar mit einem Krieg verbunden sind. Beruhigt zurücklehnen können wir uns dennoch nicht. Denn Thomas Rid macht auch klar, dass aus dem Cyberspace durchaus reale Gefahren wie Spionage, Sabotage und Subversion drohen. Kenntnisreich und spannend erzählt er von Spionageangriffen, von Sabotageakten und von Versuchen, mithilfe der Informationstechnologie Regierungen zu destabilisieren und Umstürze einzuleiten. Wir müssen begreifen, wer vom Mythos Cyberwar profitiert. Und wir müssen definieren, welchen Gefahren wir wirklich ausgesetzt sind, um den Sicherheitsanforderungen gut vorbereitet begegnen zu können.

the forever war by dexter filkins: Die Bruderschaft der Nacht John Connolly, 2012-09-28 Charlie Parker erhält den Auftrag, den Selbstmord von Damien Patchett zu untersuchen. Der junge Irak-Veteran war in illegale Geschäfte mit gestohlenen Kunstschatzen verwickelt. Unter dem Beutegut war ein antikes Kästchen, das ein dämonisches Geheimnis birgt. Aus Patchetts Kompanie sterben weitere Männer. Um das Morden zu stoppen, muss Parker ein Bündnis eingehen, das er mehr fürchtet als alles andere.

the forever war by dexter filkins: The Forever War Dexter Filkins, 2008 A prizewinning New York Times correspondent chronicles a remarkable chain of events that begins with the rise of the Taliban in the 1990s, continues with the attacks of 9/11, and moves on to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

the forever war by dexter filkins: American Dream? Andreas Etges, Winfried Fluck, 2011-11 Nicht nur der Wirtschafts- und Finanzsektor ist in den Vereinigten Staaten von Krisen geschüttelt. Auch die amerikanische Demokratie, das politische und gesellschaftliche System sowie das Gesundheits- und Bildungswesen zeigen schwere Krisensymptome. Führende Expertinnen und Experten – darunter der Wirtschaftsnobelpreisträger Paul Krugman und die Philosophin Nancy

Fraser – analysieren in diesem Band die aktuelle innen- und außenpolitische Problemlage der USA und stellen sie in einen historischen Kontext. Während die internationale Dominanz Amerikas schwindet und die Idee seines Exzeptionalismus infrage steht, bleibt das Land gleichwohl für Deutschland und die westlichen Verbündeten politisch und kulturell ein zentraler Bezugspunkt.

the forever war by dexter filkins: Murder Without Borders Terry Gould, 2010-03-08 “I am not interested in why man commits evil; I want to know why he does good.” — Vaclav Havel What makes a poor, small-town journalist stay on a story even though threatened with certain death, and offered handsome rewards for looking the other way? Over four years, Terry Gould has travelled to Colombia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Russia and Iraq – the countries in which journalists are most likely to be murdered on the job – to attempt to answer this question. In each place, through conversations with their colleagues, their families and in some cases their murderers, he uncovers the lives of local reporters and broadcasters who stayed on a story to the point of death. He searches for the moment in which each of his protagonists understood that they were willing to die, and finds complex reasons for their bravery. In his wonderfully vivid portraits of seven courageous souls, he brings their lives and the stories they worked on to light, telling truth to those who would murder truth tellers.

the forever war by dexter filkins: The Sum of Our Dreams Louis P. Masur, 2020 This volume delivers a concise, clear round-up of American history starting from America's colonial era to current days of political disagreements and social uncertainty. Covering central themes and events of American history, Masur evaluates the contested meanings of the American dream and questions its viability--

the forever war by dexter filkins: War and Media Andrew Hoskins, Ben O'Loughlin, 2013-04-23 The trinity of government, military and publics has been drawn together into immediate and unpredictable relationships in a new media ecology that has ushered in new asymmetries in the waging of war and terror. To help us understand these new relationships, Andrew Hoskins and Ben O'Loughlin here provide a timely, comprehensive and highly readable survey of the field of war and media. War is diffused through a complex mesh of our everyday media. Paradoxically, this both facilitates and contains the presence and power of enemies near and far. The conventions of so-called traditional warfare have been splintered by the availability and connectivity of the principal locus of war today: the electronic and digital media. Hoskins and O'Loughlin identify and illuminate the conditions of what they term diffused war and the new challenges it raises for the actors who wage and counter warfare, for their agents and mechanisms of the new media and for mass publics. This book offers an invaluable review of the key literature and presents a fresh approach to the understanding of the dynamic relationships between war and media. It will be welcomed by a broad range of students taking courses on war and media and related modules, especially in media, communication and cultural studies, politics and international relations, sociology, journalism, and security studies.

the forever war by dexter filkins: Autobiographical Memory and Moral Agency Daniel Vanello, 2025-10-27 This volume brings together, for the first time, perspectives from philosophy and psychology to investigate the role of autobiographical memory in moral agency. Autobiographical memory is the ability to recollect events in one's past as part of one's personal history. Moral agency is the ability to make moral judgements, act morally, and have a conception of the good life. Although a number of philosophers and psychologists have drawn attention to the role of autobiographical memory in moral agency, there is no sustained project that brings together these different lines of inquiry into a unified research area. The aim of this volume is to answer this need by bringing together leading voices in research in autobiographical memory and moral agency from both philosophy and psychology to provide a unified framework for a new interdisciplinary research area. Key areas of research explored in this volume include temporal perspectives, moral identity, autobiographical narrative, joint reminiscing, the internalisation of moral value, attachments, and amnesia. *Autobiographical Memory and Moral Agency* will appeal to researchers and advanced students in philosophy of mind, moral philosophy, philosophy of education, developmental

psychology, and educational psychology who are interested in the role of memory in moral psychology and moral development.

the forever war by dexter filkins: The "Axial Age" and the Invention of a Shared Future La Civiltà Cattolica, 2022-02-08 A collection of 13 articles from the October 2021 edition of La Civiltà Cattolica, the highly respected and oldest Catholic journal published from Rome. Our October issue has the latest in our popular series of articles on Pope Francis' meetings with local Jesuits during his travels. From Myanmar and Thailand to Japan, to Peru and Panama the pope takes time to meet his brother Jesuits. The latest meeting was in Bratislava, Slovakia. Along with an account of the meeting our editor in chief Antonio Spadaro has penned another of the journey to Hungary and Slovakia. We have two articles on Afghanistan, one by our Russian correspondent Vladimir Pachkov, SJ who considers the future for Afghanistan amid the renewal of the Great Game. The second by our popular American correspondent Drew Christiansen, who delivers again with a summary of US domestic opinion. We have a piece by Irish theologian Brian O'Leary The Mysticism of Ignatius of Loyola that continues our contribution to the Ignatian Year. Combatting Throwaway Culture by Wilfred Sumani from Hekima College, Kenya reminds us we grow all the food we need to feed the global population but almost a third is lost or wasted! So how do we combat this? Giovanni Cucci continues his series on the virtues in Thomas Aquinas on Justice. Federico Lombardi provides a concise review of the new Vademecum for cases of sexual abuse and the reform of canonical criminal law.

the forever war by dexter filkins: Killing for Show Julian Stallabrass, 2020-10-30 See firsthand how war photography is used to sway public opinion. In the autumn of 2014, the Royal Air Force released blurry video of a missile blowing up a pick-up truck which may have had a weapon attached to its flatbed. This was a lethal form of gesture politics: to send a £9-million bomber from Cyprus to Iraq and back, burning £35,000 an hour in fuel, to launch a smart missile costing £100,000 to destroy a truck or, rather, to create a video that shows it being destroyed. Some lives are ended—it is impossible to tell whose—so that the government can pretend that it taking effective action by creating a high-budget snuff movie. This is killing for show. Since the Vietnam War the way we see conflict—through film, photographs, and pixels—has had a powerful impact on the political fortunes of the campaign, and the way that war has been conducted. In this fully illustrated and passionately argued account of war imagery, Julian Stallabrass tells the story of post-war conflict, how it was recorded and remembered through its iconic photography. The relationship between war and photograph is constantly in transition, forming new perspectives, provoking new challenges: what is allowed to be seen? Does an image have the power to change political opinion? How are images used to wage war? Stallabrass shows how photographs have become a vital weapon in the modern war: as propaganda—from close-quarters fighting to the drone's electronic vision—as well as a witness to the barbarity of events such as the My Lai massacre, the violent suppression of insurgent Fallujah or the atrocities in Abu Ghraib. Through these accounts Stallabrass maps a comprehensive theoretical re-evaluation of the relationship between war, politics and visual culture. Killing for Show offers: 190 photographs encompassing photojournalism, artists' images, photographs by soldiers and amateurs and dronesA comprehensive comparison of the role of photography in the Vietnam and Iraq WarsAn explanation of the waning power of iconic images in collective memoryAn analysis of the failure of military PR and the public display of killingA focus on what can and cannot be seen, photographed and publishedAn exploration of the power and limits of amateur photographyArguments about how violent images act on democracy This full-color book is an essential volume in the history of warfare and photography

the forever war by dexter filkins: Die Präsidenten der USA Christof Mauch, 2021-03-18 Von George Washington bis Joe Biden bietet dieser Band eine kleine Geschichte der USA im Spiegel ihrer Präsidenten. Die Autorinnen und Autoren schildern in 46 biographischen Porträts Leben und Amtszeit der US-Präsidenten, skizzieren die wichtigsten Entwicklungen, Ereignisse und Entscheidungen und betrachten abschließend Leistungen und Versäumnisse der jeweiligen Präsidentschaft. So ist zugleich ein Panorama der US-amerikanischen Geschichte von der

Unabhängigkeit am Ende des 18. Jahrhunderts bis zur globalen Supermacht unserer Tage entstanden.

the forever war by dexter filkins: *Captivating Westerns* Susan Kollin, 2019-05-01 Tracing the transnational influences of what has been known as a uniquely American genre, "the Western," Susan Kollin's *Captivating Westerns* analyzes key moments in the history of multicultural encounters between the Middle East and the American West. In particular the book examines how experiences of contact and conflict have played a role in defining the western United States as a crucial American landscape. Kollin interprets the popular Western as a powerful national narrative and presents the cowboy hero as a captivating figure who upholds traditional American notions of freedom and promise, not just in the region but across the globe. *Captivating Westerns* revisits popular uses of the Western plot and cowboy hero in understanding American global power in the post-9/11 period. Although various attempts to build a case for the war on terror have referenced this quintessential American region, genre, and hero, they have largely overlooked the ways in which these celebrated spaces, icons, and forms, rather than being uniquely American, are instead the result of numerous encounters with and influences from the Middle East. By tracing this history of contact, encounter, and borrowing, this study expands the scope of transnational studies of the cowboy and the Western and in so doing discloses the powerful and productive influence the Middle East has had on the American West.

the forever war by dexter filkins: *Nothing Ever Dies* Viet Thanh Nguyen, 2016-04-11 Finalist, National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist, National Book Award in Nonfiction A New York Times Book Review "The Year in Reading" Selection All wars are fought twice, the first time on the battlefield, the second time in memory. From the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Sympathizer* comes a searching exploration of the conflict Americans call the Vietnam War and Vietnamese call the American War—a conflict that lives on in the collective memory of both nations. "[A] gorgeous, multifaceted examination of the war Americans call the Vietnam War—and which Vietnamese call the American War...As a writer, [Nguyen] brings every conceivable gift—wisdom, wit, compassion, curiosity—to the impossible yet crucial work of arriving at what he calls 'a just memory' of this war." —Kate Tuttle, Los Angeles Times "In *Nothing Ever Dies*, his unusually thoughtful consideration of war, self-deception and forgiveness, Viet Thanh Nguyen penetrates deeply into memories of the Vietnamese war...[An] important book, which hits hard at self-serving myths." —Jonathan Mirsky, Literary Review "Ultimately, Nguyen's lucid, arresting, and richly sourced inquiry, in the mode of Susan Sontag and W. G. Sebald, is a call for true and just stories of war and its perpetual legacy." —Donna Seaman, Booklist (starred review)

the forever war by dexter filkins: *Stability, Security, Reconstruction, and Transition Operations* Cynthia A. Watson, 2012-04-20 This book examines how the United States's extensive nation-building and stability operations will continue to evolve in the 21st century in the face of ever-growing budgetary concerns and constraints. *Stability, Security, Reconstruction, and Transition Operations: A Guide to the Issues* puts the people, places, and events crucial to nation-building and security operations through U.S. experiences under the microscope. This book focuses on the period after the Cold War, when U.S. operations proliferated, but also outlines the development of U.S. strategic decisions on nation-building and stability operations in a chronological fashion, providing documentation of these actions throughout American history. Original documents are provided and referenced to clarify concepts. With the increased attention on recent events in Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, and Libya, the United States's actions and policies of nation-building are now a key public policy discussion topic, and an understanding of these topics is critical for students, scholars, and general readers alike.

the forever war by dexter filkins: *Western Intervention in the Balkans* Roger D. Petersen, 2011-09-30 Conflicts involve powerful experiences. The residue of these experiences is captured by the concept and language of emotion. Indiscriminate killing creates fear; targeted violence produces anger and a desire for vengeance; political status reversals spawn resentment; cultural prejudices sustain ethnic contempt. These emotions can become resources for political entrepreneurs. A broad

range of Western interventions are based on a view of human nature as narrowly rational. Correspondingly, intervention policy generally aims to alter material incentives ('sticks and carrots') to influence behavior. In response, poorer and weaker actors who wish to block or change this Western implemented 'game' use emotions as resources. This book examines the strategic use of emotion in the conflicts and interventions occurring in the Western Balkans over a twenty-year period. The book concentrates on the conflicts among Albanian and Slavic populations (Kosovo, Montenegro, Macedonia, South Serbia), along with some comparisons to Bosnia.

the forever war by dexter filkins: Spirit and Trauma Shelly Rambo, 2010-09-02 Rambo draws on contemporary studies in trauma to rethink a central claim of the Christian faith: that new life arises from death. Reexamining the narrative of the death and resurrection of Jesus from the middle day-liturgically named as Holy Saturday-she seeks a theology that addresses the experience of living in the aftermath of trauma. Through a reinterpretation of remaining in the Johannine Gospel, she proposes a new theology of the Spirit that challenges traditional conceptions of redemption. Offered, in its place, is a vision of the Spirit's witness from within the depths of human suffering to the persistence of divine love.

the forever war by dexter filkins: *The War Comes with You* Stacey Peebles, 2024-12-12 How do we tell twenty-first-century war stories when the wars seem to go on forever? In the post-2011 surge of war stories published in America and Iraq, the defining characteristic is the depiction of combat violence that crosses borders, overtakes civilian spaces, and disrupts chronology. In *The War Comes with You: Enduring War in Life, Fiction, and Fantasy*, Stacey Peebles picks up where her groundbreaking first book, *Welcome to the Suck: Narrating the American Soldier's Experience in Iraq*, left off. Via careful readings of fiction, memoir, and poetry by writers such as Ben Fountain, Siobhan Fallon, Brian Turner, and Hassan Blasim, as well as recent superhero and Star Wars films, Peebles argues that, in the face of real and fantasy forever wars, things fall apart. Language, identities, bodies, and even the stories themselves fragment. These narratives suggest that people need not accept incoherence and there is a range of meaningful responses to the experience of everywhere, all-the-time war. Peebles illustrates what to do, that is, when war comes with you.

the forever war by dexter filkins: Why We Lost Daniel P. Bolger, 2014-11-11 A commander's "compelling" behind-the-scenes view of the United States at war after 9/11, from high-level strategy to combat on the ground (*The Wall Street Journal*). Over his thirty-five year career, Daniel P. Bolger rose through the ranks of the army infantry to become a three-star general, commanding in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Perhaps more than anyone else, he was witness to the full extent of these wars, from September 11th to withdrawal from the region. Not only did Bolger participate in top-level planning and strategy meetings, he also regularly carried a rifle alongside soldiers in combat actions. Writing with hard-won experience and unflinching honesty, Bolger argues that while we lost in Iraq and Afghanistan, we did not have to. Intelligence was garbled. Key decision makers were blinded by spreadsheets or theories. And we never really understood our enemy. *Why We Lost* is a timely, forceful, and compulsively readable account from a fresh and authoritative perspective, "filled with heartfelt stories of soldiers and Marines in firefights and close combat. It weighs in mightily to the ongoing debate over how the United States should wage war" (*The Washington Post*).

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