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War and Its Causes

Jeremy Black

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About the Book

This interdisciplinary book assesses the causes of war, considering what war actually is—key for understanding its causes. Black marshals global examples from the fifteenth century to the present, analyzing the three main types of war—between cultures, within cultures, and civil—emphasizing the social and cultural factors leading to conflict.

About the Editor

Jeremy Black is professor of history at Exeter University and a 2018 Templeton Fellow of the Foreign Policy Research Institute. His many books on modern war include *The Age of Total War, A Century of Conflict: War, 1914–2014*, and *War and the World. 1450–2000*.

Features

Places present and future conflicts in broader theoretical and chronological contexts; global coverage of modern warfare from 1500 to the present; compares civil wars and international conflicts; highlights the importance of social and cultural elements

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Praise for the Book

"A fascinating account of war as an institution by one of the preeminent students of the subject. By examining wars in their evolving cultural, political, and technological settings, Black offers important insights into the current practice of the use of force by states and intelligent speculation about the future."

-Richard Ned Lebow, King's College, London

"Jeremy Black's War and Its Causes is a sweeping and highly informed history of war from pre-history to the present with a detailed analysis of wars from 1500 on. It brings in the latest diplomatic history, as well as insights from social and cultural history. While not everyone will agree with his views, they are always thought-provoking and illustrated with many examples. Social scientists, in particular, will find this book very useful in their research and teaching. It is highly readable but well documented. Another gem!"

—John Vasquez, Mackie Scholar in International Relations, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

"From Thucydides to Mary Kaldor, from Ming and Qing China to Donald Trump's America, from the 'Great Mutiny' of 1857–59 to the July crisis of 1914, Jeremy Black offers the first treatment on a universal scale of a major historical problem. By one of the most accredited historians of war, this is a work rich in thoughts and information."

—Luigi Loreto, University of Naples

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