

AMERICA IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

THE MYTH *of the* GOOD WAR

REVISED EDITION



JACQUES R. PAUWELS

Myth Of The Good War

Ian Pickup



Myth Of The Good War:

The Myth of the Good War Jacques R. Pauwels, 2015-03-06 In the spirit of historians Howard Zinn Gwynne Dyer and Noam Chomsky Jacques Pauwels focuses on the big picture Like them he seeks to find the real reasons for the actions of great powers and great leaders Familiar Second World War figures from Adolf Hitler to Franklin D Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin are portrayed in a new light in this book The decisions of Hitler and his Nazi government to go to war were not those of madmen Britain and the US were not allies fighting shoulder to shoulder with no motive except ridding the world of the evils of Nazism In Pauwels account the actions of the United States during the war years were heavily influenced by American corporations IBM GM Ford ITT and Standard Oil of New Jersey now called Exxon who were having a very profitable war selling oil armaments and equipment to both sides with money gushing everywhere Rather than analyzing Pearl Harbor as an unprovoked attack Pauwels notes that US generals boasted of their success in goading Japan into a war the Americans badly wanted One chilling account describes why President Truman insisted on using nuclear bombs against Japan when there was no military need to do so Another reveals that Churchill instructed his bombers to flatten Dresden and kill thousands when the war was already won to demonstrate British American strength to Stalin Leaders usually cast in a heroic mould in other books about this war look quite different here Nations that claimed a higher purpose in going to war are shown to have had far less idealistic motives The Second World War as Jacques Pauwels tells it was a good war only in myth The reality is far messier and far more revealing of the evils that come from conflicts between great powers and great leaders seeking to enrich their countries and dominate the world **Myth of the Good War** Jacques R. "" ""Pauwels, 2000

The Good War That Wasn't—and Why It Matters Ted Grimsrud, 2014-11-10 A war is always a moral event However the most destructive war in human history has not received much moral scrutiny The Good War That Wasn t and Why It Matters examines the moral legacy of this war especially for the United States Drawing on the just war tradition and on moral values expressed in widely circulated statements of purpose for the war the book asks How did American participation in the war fit with just cause and just conduct criteria Subsequently the book considers the impact of the war on American foreign policy in the years that followed How did American actions cohere or not with the stated purposes for the war especially self determination for the peoples of the world and disarmament Finally the book looks at the witness of war opponents Values expressed by war advocates were not actually furthered by the war However many war opponents did inspire efforts that effectively worked toward the goals of disarmament and self determination The Good War That Wasn t and Why It Matters develops its arguments in pragmatic terms It focuses on moral reasoning in a commonsense way in its challenge to widely held assumptions about World War II The "Good War" in American Memory John Bodnar, 2010-10-01 The Good War in American Memory dispels the long held myth that Americans forged an agreement on why they had to fight in World War II John Bodnar s sociocultural examination of the vast public debate that took place in the United States over

the war's meaning reveals that the idea of the good war was highly contested Bodnar's comprehensive study of the disagreements that marked the American remembrance of World War II in the six decades following its end draws on an array of sources fiction and nonfiction movies theater and public monuments He identifies alternative strands of memory tragic and brutal versus heroic and virtuous and reconstructs controversies involving veterans minorities and memorials In building this narrative Bodnar shows how the idealism of President Franklin Roosevelt's Four Freedoms was lost in the public commemoration of World War II how the war's memory became intertwined in the larger discussion over American national identity and how it only came to be known as the good war many years after its conclusion Looking for the Good War Elizabeth D. Samet, 2021-11-30 A remarkable book from its title and subtitle to its last words A stirring indictment of American sentimentality about war Robert G Kaiser The Washington Post In Looking for the Good War Elizabeth D Samet reexamines the literature art and culture that emerged after World War II bringing her expertise as a professor of English at West Point to bear on the complexity of the postwar period in national life She exposes the confusion about American identity that was expressed during and immediately after the war and the deep national ambivalence toward war violence and veterans all of which were suppressed in subsequent decades by a dangerously sentimental attitude toward the United States exceptional history and destiny Samet finds the war's ambivalent legacy in some of its most heavily mythologized figures the war correspondent epitomized by Ernie Pyle the character of the erstwhile G I turned either cop or criminal in the pulp fiction and feature films of the late 1940s the disaffected Civil War veteran who looms so large on the screen in the Cold War Western and the resurgent military hero of the post Vietnam period Taken together these figures reveal key elements of postwar attitudes toward violence liberty and nation attitudes that have shaped domestic and foreign policy and that respond in various ways to various assumptions about national identity and purpose established or affirmed by World War II As the United States reassesses its roles in Afghanistan and the Middle East the time has come to rethink our national mythology the way that World War II shaped our sense of national destiny our beliefs about the use of American military force throughout the world and our inability to accept the realities of the twenty first century's decades of devastating conflict

The Best War Ever Michael C. C. Adams, 2015-05-15 Adams challenges various stereotypes to present a view of World War II that avoids the simplistic extremes of both glorification and vilification The Best War Ever charts the complex diplomatic problems of the 1930s and reveals the realities of ground combat Adams exposes the myth that the home front was fully united behind the war effort demonstrating how class race gender and age divisions split Americans Page 4 of cover

Unpatriotic History of the Second World War James Hartfield, 2012-09-28 Sixty million people died in the Second World War and still they tell us it was the Peoples War The official history of the Second World War is Victors History This is the history of the Second World War without the patriotic whitewash The Second World War was not fought to stop fascism or to liberate Europe It was a war between imperialist powers to decide which among them would rule over the world a division of

the spoils of empire and an iron cage for working people enslaved to the war production drive The unpatriotic history of the Second World War explains why the Great Powers fought most of their war not in their own countries but in colonies in North Africa in the Far East and in Germanys hoped for Empire in the East Find out how wildcat strikes partisans in Europe and Asia and soldiers mutinies came close to ending the war And find out how the Allies invaded Europe and the Far East to save capitalism from being overthrown James Heartfield challenges the received wisdom of the Second World War **War Comes Again** G. S. Boritt,1995 The Civil War and World War II stand as the two great cataclysms of American history In this insightful exploration of these epic events 11 eminent historians including three Pulitzer prize winners offer illuminating comparisons of the conflicts **The Hollywood War Machine** Carl Boggs,Pollard Tom,2017-07-05 The newly expanded and revised edition of The Hollywood War Machine includes wide ranging exploration of numerous popular military themed films that have appeared in the close to a decade since the first edition was published Within the Hollywood movie community there has not been even the slightest decline in well financed pictures focusing on warfare and closely related motifs The second edition includes a new chapter on recent popular films and another that analyzes the relationship between these movies and the burgeoning gun culture in the United States marked in recent years by a dramatic increase in episodes of mass killings WLA ,2011

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