



# Addicted to War: Why the U.S. Can't Kick Militarism

*Joel Andreas (Illustrations)*

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**Addicted to War: Why the U.S. Can't Kick Militarism** Joel Andreas (Illustrations)

*Addicted to War* takes on the most active, powerful and destructive military in the world. Hard-hitting, carefully documented and heavily illustrated, it reveals why the United States has been involved in more wars in recent years than any other country. Read *Addicted to War* to find out who benefits from these military adventures, who pays—and who dies. Over 120,000 copies of the previous edition are in print. This new edition is substantially reworked and fully updated through the War in Iraq. “A witty and devastating portrait of U.S. military policy.”—Howard Zinn

**Joel Andreas** wrote and illustrated *The Incredible Rocky*, the biting satire that introduced over 100,000 people to the unsavory activities of the Rockefeller family.

**In Oakland, California on March 24, 2015 a fire destroyed the AK Press warehouse along with several other businesses. Please consider visiting the AK Press website to learn more about the fundraiser to help them and their neighbors.**

## Addicted to War: Why the U.S. Can't Kick Militarism Details

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Author : Joel Andreas (Illustrations)

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# From Reader Review Addicted to War: Why the U.S. Can't Kick Militarism for online ebook

## Owlseyes says

It looks like *war is good for business*. Plenty of backing examples (Latin America, Middle East...oil, big US companies; the Marines role: "from the Halls on Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli"....etc, etc).

An illustrated dialogue between a mother and a child explains a lot. Very factual, very instructive. Recommended.

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## PolicemanPrawn says

This is a comic-style book on the evils of US militarism. The pictures definitely bring a lot to the book, and I think more books should use photos and drawings. It gives us a brief history from the founding of the nation to the present day, focussing on wars, death tolls, destruction, and interference. Throughout, there are quotes by various US figures, who unambiguously tell us what their intention is. Many people do not know of this aspect of the US's history because it appears to be actively suppressed. The propaganda machine is working as intended. There is one statement I questioned: the book states that the death toll of the US occupation of Haiti is 50,000, but I'm not sure that's true.

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## Lesandre says

Concise comic book, intermixed with real photographs, rendering of United States history since World War II. Loved it. Wish high school history teachers would share it with their students.

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## Bryan Williams says

An eye-opening account of why there always seems to be war on the agenda in American politics. Well-written and informative with many quotes from former presidents and generals to back up the inferences inside, it will be a good read for people looking to find out more about why the US always seems to be involved in some war or the other.

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## Oswald says

This book needs to replace all of the wretched text books used in schools. This books tells the truth about United States foreign policy. Not only should kids read this, but misinformed adults too.

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## **Buddy Bell says**

Wow wow wow wow wow wow wow wow WOW

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## **Roxanne Russell says**

A comic strip style history of American aggression and imperialism. It is filled with terrible images, horrifying policies of American diplomacy, and death counts that are shocking. It was incredibly informative, but as usual, being well-informed is depressing. The most useful information was specific facts about the companies most involved in the military industrial complex.

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## **Ayman Fadel says**

The peace groups in which I participate distribute this book. It's an easy read which introduces most of the basic premises of the U.S. peace movements. Most residents of the United States will not know the basic facts introduced in this book. It also contains a directory of national peace organizations and a list of references for those who want to take the next step in advocating for peace.

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## **Will says**

In *Addicted to War*, Joel Andreas tackles the hidden and despicable story of the American military-industrial complex in a serious, yet accessible, way.

American militarism has a long, entrenched, depressing history, one full of atrocities, bloodshed, and the sacrifice of American lives. I love my country, and I love being an American, but if we ignore the crimes that our nation has committed, does that make us any better than those we fight? If we teach our children about all of the countless positive accomplishments that our country has achieved, but neglect the horrible mistakes we've made, aren't we betraying our own children's intelligence and their future? Andreas presents a different history of the American military, where our leaders have killed children, massacred villages supposedly in the name of democracy and freedom, but really in the name of power and profit. We've bound countless humans in chains, condemned them to torture and death, all because they disagree with American might. We've sent countless American troops, powerless and beautiful, to their deaths fighting pointless wars.

Exposing the faults of the actions of the United States is not anti-American. In fact, it may be the most patriotic act a citizen of this country can do to improve this grand experiment. It makes sense that Cheney is a war profiteer. It makes sense that military spending has made us a debtor nation and that cutting social programs has betrayed our own citizens, our fellow Americans. But it really isn't obvious to most. Inundated by ignorance from television networks owned by these same corporations and insulted by the same military that gobbles up our tax dollars, Americans are unaware. Andreas has succeeded in making this foreboding topic accessible, especially for curious young Americans, by summarizing a complex topic effectively and using powerful imagery. You can't be bored reading this book; there's just too much hypocrisy.

I'm lucky enough to know Joel Andreas, and he's a remarkable man, passionate activist, and scholar, but I

credit W.D. Ehrhart, a Vietnam war poet and another teacher of mine, of bashing the history of U.S. militarism into my head in high school. The story of marine general Smedley Butler, a participant in the American colonialism of the early 20th century who later rejected U.S. foreign policy as misguided and led the Bonus Army, has particularly resonated with me. He grew up in my hometown and went to my high school. Andreas did not introduce me to American militarism, but his work should be distributed nationwide, so that the next generation of Americans isn't fed the same one-sided story as I was and the last four generations were. We don't need to spend 55% of the federal discretionary budget on the military and only 6% on education. Our nation is addicted to war, and Andreas has given us some serious counseling.

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### **Mike says**

This illustrated book briefly discusses the history of American imperialism, much as other similar books have done. The emphasis of this book, however, is really the economic consequences for all of us in the cost of funding the American Empire and the way it affects our standard of living. It also includes a well-researched and important section on ownership of large media, and the reasons that our television channels always root and cheer for war. It's emphasis is current, and it includes information and links to groups that advocate for less emphasis/money to the military/industrial complex. It is both informative and empowering.

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### **Brandon Lott says**

This is a very quick historical graphic interpretation of the history of our nation's will to go to war with ... everyone.

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### **Ian Forsyth says**

Shows you what taxes pay for. Shows you what our gov. is made for. Shows you what's fucking up the world

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### **Kristin says**

While this book had some interesting facts (ie about the amount of money we spend on warfare) and interesting insights about the current war, overall it was nothing more than a piece of propaganda. loaded language and bolded words are used which will throw off any but extreme leftists, or those who don't think for themselves. if you're on the far left, you will love this book, read it. if you're in the middle or somewhere left of middle, go ahead and read it, it's a quick read and isn't all bad. If you're anywhere right of middle, don't bother, you will be immediately turned off by this book within a couple of pages. The book would have been much stronger without the long history of the US "addiction to war." while some of the arguments had merit, the author is never going to convince me that world war one and two were a capitalist front... come on now... Also, many of the arguments lost their strength as the author digressed into social issues and went off on various tangents.

one more thing- this book is set up like a cartoon strip, not paragraph structure... which makes the editor's comments in the introduction about the book being used as a teaching tool in high schools and colleges all

the more disturbing. It also makes for a not so convincing format, that is unless you're the type of person who only understands short sentences accompanied by cartoons. don't worry, they bold all the important words so you don't miss their blatant one sided argument.

conclusion: this book is trash with a couple good points that i would rather read in a real book.

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### **Austin Payette says**

The book I read was Addicted to war by joel andreas and I thought it was a really good book it was funny and very interesting. It talk about the war in Iraq and how the government spends so much money on war and laws the citizens think are a waste. It also talks about the history of the united states all the way from George Washington and when the first war started with him to present day. This book is good because its based of militarism and how ever part of it effect people in different ways which I thought was very interesting because after reading I realized everything is true and how the government isn't for the people its for the money. I recommend this book to anyone that likes history on the U.S and like to read comic books because this book make the whole U.S history in to facts with jokes which I thought was awesome.

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### **Thomas Ray says**

Addicted to War:

Why the U.S. Can't Kick Militarism

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Joel Andreas

[addictedtowar.com](http://addictedtowar.com)

[akpress.org](http://akpress.org) (publisher)

also available in Spanish

An engaging exposition of crucial truths. Thanks to Steve, Felix, Lars, and the rest of the Madison Veterans for Peace gang for putting up the Memorial Mile, selling books like this, and all they do to spread the word.

“As a veteran of three wars, WWII through Vietnam, with 33 years of Army service, I find this book to be the most truthful recitation of our government’s policies available anywhere.”—Colonel James Burkholder

Ch. 1 Manifest Destiny

All U.S. history has been of military imperialism in the service of greed.

“I can still see the butchered women and children lying heaped and scattered all along the crooked gulch as plain as when I saw them with eyes still young. And I can see that something else died there in the bloody mud, and was buried in the blizzard. A people’s dream died there. It was a beautiful dream . . . the nation’s hoop is broken and scattered.”—Black Elk, spiritual leader of the Lakota people and survivor of the Wounded Knee massacre in South Dakota.

“I spent 33 years and 4 months in active military service . . . And during that period I spent most of my time as a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.

“Thus, I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street.

“I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1902–1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras right for American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927, I helped see to it that Standard Oil went on its way unmolested.

“Our boys were sent off to die with beautiful ideals painted in front of them. No one told them that dollars and cents were the real reason they were marching off to kill and die.”—General Smedley Butler, 1934

The U.S. entered WWI for its [moneyed interests'] fair share of the spoils.

The goal of U.S. involvement in WWII was to achieve military and economic supremacy for the United States[' moneyed interests].

#### Ch. 2 Cold War, World Policemen

U.S. intervened militarily 200 times in foreign countries during the cold war. The U.S. slaughtered millions of civilians, installed and propped up corrupt dictators loyal to U.S. moneyed interests.

#### Ch. 3 New World Order

After the 1989 breakup of the USSR, the U.S. continued to rain death and destruction in other countries in the service of oil and war-profiteering interests.

#### Ch. 4 War on Terrorism

“What America is tasting now is something insignificant compared to what we have tasted for scores of years. Our nation (the Islamic world) has been tasting this humiliation and degradation for more than 80 years. Its sons are killed, its blood is shed, its sanctuaries are attacked and no one hears and no one heeds. Millions of innocent children are being killed as I speak. They are being killed in Iraq without committing any sins. . . . To America, I say only a few words to it and its people. I swear to God, who has elevated the skies without pillars, neither America nor the people who live in it will dream of security before we live it here in Palestine and not before all the infidel armies leave the land of Muhammad, peace be upon him.”—Osama bin Laden, Oct. 7, 2001

#### Ch. 5 The War Profiteers

Decisions to go to war and spend on the military are made by and in the interests of Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon, General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman, United Technologies, GE, and other war profiteers.

#### Ch. 6 The High Price of Militarism

Since 1948 the U.S. has spent on the military more than the cumulative value of all human-made wealth in the U.S. The average American household pays over \$4400 in taxes yearly toward the military.

Social programs are short-changed. Infrastructure crumbles. Schools suffer. People don't get medical care.

Homelessness balloons. No money for drug and alcohol treatment.

Nuclear and other weapons manufacture and testing spews radioactive plutonium and other toxins into air, water, land, and the food supply.

Our militarism breed retaliation and arms races, putting us in greater danger.

Civil rights are taken away in the name of security. Surveillance is used to suppress political opponents.

Soldiers die and are maimed and their psyches damaged, in battle and in training. The poor bear the losses.

#### Ch. 7 Militarism and the Media

All TV and other large media companies are owned by multinationals whose directors are also directors of war profiteering companies. Reporting is propaganda for war profiteering.

#### Ch. 8 Resisting Militarism

There's a large anti-war movement, quick to resist plans to go to war.

"War is constantly on the agenda in Washington.

But next time they ask you to put your life on the line . . . as a soldier . . . or as a potential victim of attack at home—ask yourself . . .

What is this addiction to war doing to the people of the U.S. and the world? How much does it cost? Who's going to profit? Who's going to pay? And who's going to die? Think about it. Do something about it. Kick out the war junkies! How can we do that? It's up to us to figure it out."

Links to antiwar groups. List at [addictedtowar.com](http://addictedtowar.com)

Reference notes. 161 of them.

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