



War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death

Norman Solomon

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War Made Easy cuts through the dense web of spin to probe and scrutinize the key "perception management" techniques that have played huge roles in the promotion of American wars in recent decades. This guide to disinformation analyzes American military adventures past and present to reveal striking similarities in the efforts of various administrations to justify, and retain, public support for war. *War Made Easy* is essential reading. It documents a long series of deliberate misdeeds at the highest levels of power and lays out important guidelines to help readers distinguish a propaganda campaign from actual news reporting. With *War Made Easy*, every reader can become a savvy media critic and, perhaps, help the nation avoid costly and unnecessary wars.

War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death Details

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From Reader Review War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death for online ebook

Doug says

An insightful, well-written tour of the pattern of presidential war deceptions over the past few decades. If you can't read the book get the film documentary with the same name.

Larry Bassett says

This is definitely a preaching to the choir book. But I completely enjoyed reading it. I have to remember Vietnam was 45 years ago so it might be a bit over covered here. But the story is probably not familiar to the new generations and it is repeated here fairly well.

Bruce says

Because of our leaders and pundits propensity to lie we have a problem: When nothing need be proven, then no war need be justified, ahead of time or later on. Power is a great aphrodisiac.

nathan says

This is a good solid read about how the Media and the U.S government come together to sell the american people wars.

Go to you tube and type in war made easy part 2..an excellent little video there.

Christopher Carbone says

I must stress that this book is, basically, “preaching to the converted” insofar as anyone who believes the US goes to war too easily will love it, while those who think “US All the Way” will barely get by the prologue. However, the book has some great insights into how the United States packages its war for mass consumption; how we are usually the aggressor but claim otherwise; how we gather “evidence” and then when its proven wrong pretend like we never meant it in the first place, and how no matter what, once a war starts we tend to become fanatical in our praise for our own aggression.

At the same time, the book can lose you; there is a whole chapter on how our soldiers do terrible things and other chapters on how the US is always wrong (the author implies even in WWII). However, you can get past all this (he is nowhere near as incendiary as Howard Zinn) and overall this is a solid read for anyone who wants to read up on how the US is spectacular at selling war.

Kevin Summers says

Sample quote: "As an astute cliché says, truth is the first casualty of war. But another early casualty is conscience. ... Conscience is not on the military's radar screen, and it's not on our television screen. But government officials and media messages do not define the limits and possibilities of conscience. We do."

Mlg says

Goering once said "The people can always be brought to do the bidding of the leaders" and this book shows how right he was. Taking just the period from the 1960's to the present, Solomon shows how Presidents and the government lie to the people and manipulate the data in order to get the country to go to war. Newspapers are also complicit, parroting administration lies instead of doing real, investigative journalism. They assist in downplaying the realities of war calling civilian casualties "collateral damage" instead of showing the real horrors of bombing innocent people. We no longer are allowed to see coffins returning from war, because that might turn the country against it. "Body counts are no longer kept, because it might upset the populace. War is now waged like a video game, using drones from places far away. This is a book that should be read by every American and sent to every editor of a major newspaper in this country. The manipulation of the public is way worse than anyone imagines.

Brent says

This is not a feel-good book. As the title implies, the book details many of the times that government officials have lied to the American people in order to gain support for their war plans. It isn't pleasant to think that our leaders lie to us--it seems like something that only happens in other countries--but it is an ugly truth that we should know about.

We already know about many of the lies surrounding the Vietnam war and the recent Iraq war, but the book also details lies surrounding the invasions of Granada and Panama, the bombing of Yugoslavia, and even the Spanish-American War. It outlines a consistent pattern in each of these conflicts. Unfortunately the media and the public fail to learn from past wars and so the pattern continues.

This is not a conspiracy theory book. The book doesn't make any new claims or report anything that hasn't already been reported in the mainstream media. However, because most of the lies were uncovered years after the fact they aren't well-known. The book gives historical perspective to the lies and pays them the attention they deserve.

If we truly strive to be a peaceful nation we need to raise the bar for what constitutes a necessary war. In the past fifty years we have helped overthrow dozens of governments, funded countless terrorist organizations, invaded several countries, and killed thousands or perhaps millions of civilians. We have troops stationed in over 100 countries, are the leading arms dealer in the world, and have a military budget roughly equal to the rest of the world combined. I say "we" but what I should say is "our government." I truly believe that we are a peace-loving people, but unfortunately our government isn't carrying out our wishes and we are mostly ignorant to it.

This book will not entertain you, but I still recommend it because it will open your eyes to the fact that you are being lied to and the media is mostly ignoring it.

Bob Hochstein says

This book really laid it out and spelled out how sometimes President in conjunction with the media and Congress put their spin when it comes to going to war. It clearly shows that when a President is bound and determined to go to war for various reasons, that there is nothing stopping them unless the key advisors and members of Congress raise enough questions.

Claire says

This book is about how to spot a propaganda campaign and differentiate it from news. No wonder at first I disliked it, since I had just been Marxist-Leninist'ed into last century.

I was thinking I might not want to mention I had this book at all, since I did not like it on face value, but then I decided, I can't fill Goodreads with only my 4- and 5-star adoration reviews if I want to be regarded as an honest reader, as everyone has likes and dislikes. (There's little I can do about my fixations on certain authors.) (Then again, there are ~~one or two~~ five or six books that I had reviewed in the recent past that struck me very badly.)

Then I learned that N. Solomon is the founder and Executive Director of the Institute for Public Accuracy. That sounds like something I want to do. So I became more tolerant and amused by this book. So, it is a political book, but you might want to read it with your tongue in your cheek. Funny.

I mean, look at the Table of Contents! (view spoiler)

I'm laughing too hard to keep going and write the whole thing out.

Maybe I'll look into some other things by this columnist.
