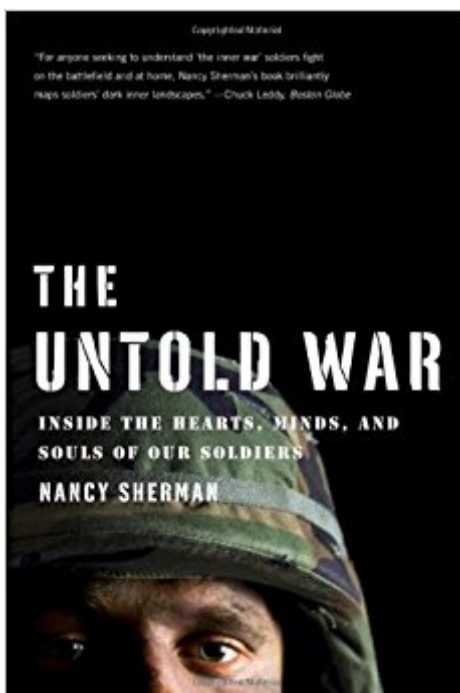


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The Untold War: Inside The Hearts, Minds, And Souls Of Our Soldiers



Synopsis

"Brilliant . . . a must read for veterans and those who seek to understand them." —Huffington Post
The Untold War draws on revealing interviews with servicemen and -women to offer keen psychological and philosophical insights into the experience of being a soldier. Bringing to light the ethical quandaries that soldiers face — torture, the thin line between fighters and civilians, and the anguish of killing even in a just war — Nancy Sherman opens our eyes to the fact that wars are fought internally as well as externally, enabling us to understand the emotional tolls that are so often overlooked.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Philosopher and psychoanalyst Sherman brings both perspectives when listening to soldiers sort out their feelings about war, the killing, reintegration into society, and survivor guilt. Sherman focuses on interviews with 40 soldiers — from the Vietnam era through the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan — at various points in their military careers and expands her examination to the impact of war on the families of soldiers. Referring to philosophers from Aristotle to Seneca to Epictetus, she explores the moral dilemma of justifying killing in war, struggles with the morality of some wars, the political obfuscation for war, denigration of the enemy, torture of prisoners, the morality of interrogators, and the worries of being held prisoner. On a broader level, Sherman explores the practical need to compartmentalize military and civilian life but the moral need not to compartmentalize so much that humanity is lost. Sherman, who has worked with the military on trauma and ethics issues, offers penetrating portraits of the individual struggles of soldiers and

profound insights on aspects of war that civilians rarely consider. --Vanessa Bush --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

No ordinary reflection on war . . . a powerful and moving reminder of war's long-term consequences and the cost to soldiers and society. "For anyone seeking to understand 'the inner war' soldiers fight on the battlefield and at home, Nancy Sherman's book brilliantly maps soldiers' dark inner landscapes. "Starred Review. At a time when suicide rates among veterans is increasing sharply, this empathic examination of the moral weight that soldiers carry on their shoulders is essential reading. "Humaniz[es] soldiers by enabling us to see them as individuals with distinct, particular responses to psychological and physical wounds. "

I thank our soldiers every chance that I get. The message from within Untold War is that- The participants in war sometimes do things which might not come naturally to them- And then will include those memories as part of the new person they become.- Some memories are harder than others to carry with you. To servicemen who have helped keep our country safe: Thank you for your service.

As a current PhD candidate at Gonzaga University, my passions are veterans and their families. This book was helpful toward my candidacy paper. It was insightful with the narratives from those men and women who were 'there'. I would enjoy having coffee with the author to have a rich discussion regarding veteran issues.

I wish this book would be read by every citizen. Although I have had appreciation for the courage and sacrifice of military people all my life, the book gave me a deeper understanding of the personal cost of combat. I wish that this book would be required reading for every lawmaker or politician who faces decisions about war and military personnel.

Comprehensive and compassionate exploration of moral injury aspects of issues for returning soldiers

great

One might be hard pressed to find a better, more thoroughly written coverage about the

predicaments of the soldiers (which includes former veterans of previous wars and the current wars in Iraq & Afghanistan). Ms. Sherman approaches the issue from a compassionate perspective and is probably wise in not expressing any personal commentary about the wisdom (or lack of such) in having the U.S. committed to these wars (including the Vietnam War because as traumatic as the experience of the POW was there, some would argue that his participation in a war of dubious moral value meant he just about deserved whatever punishment he got; after all, not telling how many civilians were killed or injured through his bombing missions).

I met Nancy Sherman at the Malogne House, a former VIP hotel converted to soldiers' quarters for returning OEF/OIF veterans. I agreed to the interviews because of her obvious dedication to getting the story of the Untold War from the soldier's perspective. Despite how hard it may have been to talk about, Dr. Sherman's warmth and genuineness came through during every session. This book tells many stories far more deserving and intense than my own, both accurately and well. Her style takes you back in time to Homer, the Stoics, and incorporates ancient and more recent psychology on war and warriors - the warrior code, the effects of war on the hardened Ranger infantry officer and the young twenty year old sniper. As a reservist there is another dimension. You have a full time commitment mentally and spiritually, but must balance this against the normal rigors of life... until you get the phone call that changes everything. Nancy Sherman understands the dynamic of the dedicated reservist as well as the fully devoted and hardened life-long career soldier. This book should be required reading for anyone sending America's best into harm's way, and just as importantly, welcoming them home again. MAJ(R) Anthony F. DeStefano US ARMY Signal Corps OEF/OIF 2001-2003

No one says it better than those who have been there, and the reality is that there is a gap between behavioral health providers' experience, both uniformed and civilian, and the opportunities to truly walk in the shoes of our soldiers. Bridging this gap is the book "The Untold War," which is a dramatic culmination of stories from soldiers struggling and forging resolutions for events previously thought to be unspeakable. Dr. Sherman's book is a powerful guide both for clinicians who have never been there, and for those in uniform still trying to find a way to dig themselves out from the seemingly bottomless pit of guilt and demoralization. Abbey-Robin Durkin, Ph.D., Military Psychologist, former US Army Officer.

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