

This War Won't Cost  
Much – I'm Already  
Against the Next One

ROBERT S. SWIATEK



Swiatek Press

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to Sister Justine, my eighth grade teacher

also by Robert S. Swiatek

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***This Page Intentionally Left Blank  
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## Table of contents

	Introduction	i
1.	9/11 – a day to forget	1
2.	Looking back	7
3.	War preparation: big whoppers	13
4.	Government deception	19
5.	The romance of war	27
6.	Hollywood hubbub	39
7.	War – what is it good for?	47
8.	The 9/11 response	61
9.	Violence and conflict	71
10.	Afghanistan and Iraq	81
11.	Military intelligence	87
12.	ROTC – it sounded like . . .	93
13.	Crusades for war	101
14.	The costs of war	109
15.	The necessity of war	115
16.	More reasons for war	125
17.	He ain't heavy, he's my brother	129
18.	Pain and suffering	135
19.	Hell, no, we won't go	143
20.	Bold steps	149
	References and recommendations	165



## Introduction

“The true patriots are those who carry on a lover’s quarrel with their country, as a reflection of God’s eternal lover’s quarrel with the entire world.” – William Sloane Coffin

“Feeling, compassion, humility, dialogue and nonviolence all become the virtues of the weak. Ironically, it is the strong who need them most.” – Sister Joan Chittister

“If I were to wish for anything I should not wish for wealth and power, but for the passionate sense of what can be, for the eye, which, ever young and ardent, sees the possible. Pleasure disappoints, possibility, never. And what wine is so sparkling, what so fragrant, what so intoxicating as possibility.” – Soren Kierkegaard

In June 2008, I finished reading Jim Marrs’ excellent book on war, *The Terror Conspiracy: Deception, 9/11 and the Loss of Liberty*. If you don’t believe in those things, I hope your reason isn’t because they don’t exist. There have been too many conspiracies in history to deny them. Moreover, some things are magic or magical, but certainly not bullets.

The book by Marrs should be read by everyone, despite its length at over four hundred pages. His treatise covers war and terrorism not only during the present time, but during the past half century as well, and from the book, you can certainly arrive at some conclusions about the future – not all of them pleasant. I warn you: the book is scary and in many ways discouraging, but you will also find hope. In addition, once you start it, you’ll have a difficult time putting it down.

I also enjoy reading books by Michael Moore and his movies are worth seeing. Soon after it came out, I watched his award winning documentary, *Fahrenheit 9/11*. If you haven't seen it, it's eye-opening. You may also want to get a view of what war really encompasses by reading his book, *Will They Ever Trust Us Again?* Watching the movie verified what I have read by various authors about war, especially the ones in Afghanistan and Iraq in the twenty-first century. It also gave me the opportunity to place a face with a name, as some of the writers whose books I have used as references appear in the movie. Also appearing on the screen are the victims of war referred to in the Moore book. In it, you will find numerous quotes – a few of these can be found at the end of some of the chapters here – by those who have experienced war, whether they have a friend or relative fighting, are soldiers themselves or veterans of war. People can make statements about being in the trenches, but these individuals have witnessed the horrors firsthand. Their voices should be heard.

There is nothing that compares to war. People debate that point, but I doubt that they ever served their country in battle. There have been many words to describe these types of conflicts, but certain expressions and phrases that have been used in the past don't truly apply, such as "great war," "romantic adventure," and "fighting for peace." I'm sure you can recall others. There is nothing glorious about war and as displayed in *Fahrenheit 9/11*, few people would volunteer to send their sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, mom, dad or cousins to battle, especially those in political office.

Wars have been fought for too long. Today, war is always unjust because of the weapons used. It is vastly different from years past in many ways but some things haven't changed. People still die so that others can profit. And indeed the rewards are extraordinary. War

discriminates, as people in power who have money are never sent into battle. It is only those without resources who are commissioned to fight these illogical wars. Those transported to Iraq and Afghanistan are the poor and middle class, while the leaders usually never see the front lines, or anywhere near the area of conflict, except to proclaim “Mission Accomplished” when the battles are only beginning. Some of these leaders who conceive war have even been draft evaders.

War results in the destruction of human beings, resources, the earth, air and seas and the waste of money that could be better used elsewhere. The atomic bomb was one of the worse creations in the history of the world. If you use it, you destroy lives and the planet. If it never gets utilized, you’ve wasted materials and you still need to find a place to safely dispose of these weapons of mass destruction. That task itself is impossible.

I had an idea to write this book about a decade ago. Sometime in the 1990s, I penned a book of essays and one was titled, “Good war,” so that was the beginning. Looking at backups that I always take today – that wasn’t the case for my first PC – I found a word document of over eighty formatted pages from the end of 2004. It appears that I have been writing this book for about five years. I think it’s time to bring it into print.

Gazing at that backup file, the title for the book was *Just Another War*. I had a few other possibilities but settled on *This War Won’t Cost Much*, although in the spring of 2008, I added the subtitle. You should be aware that Paul Wolfowicz uttered that same feeling expressed in those first five words. His quote can be found at the beginning of Chapter 14. The subtitle is important because not only is this treatise about war, it is specifically about my feelings, based on my observations and that of many other people.

In late 2007, I visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. Because of the endless list of victims listed on the wall, anyone who visits it will have a difficult time looking for the name of someone they knew who perished in that debacle. However, there is order, based on the years of conflict. If you had a chance to read it all, you would find friends, family, classmates and co-workers who never returned from Southeast Asia. Too many young men and women gave up too much for an unnecessary war that lasted too long and cost the world too high a price.

A decade ago, I thought that war was unjust, unnecessary, immoral and illogical. As of the spring of 2008, I had seen too many movies and television programs on war and reached my limit to the number of books that I cared to read on that subject. Today, I am completely convinced – and by the time you finish reading this, I hope you will be, too – that this killing embodies all those four adjectives and others besides.

This book is an attempt to end wars on the planet before the earth ceases to be. This work discusses bomb building, why war is good for nothing except the undertakers and corporations that sell munitions and rebuild countries. It covers many other topics related to war, such as terrorism, 9/11, religion, the morality of war and all the costs, especially the loss of human life and environmental harm to the planet. I also mention a few twentieth century actions that people may not have linked to wars in the twenty-first century.

Brainwashing on a conspiratorial scale will be discussed as will violence and conflict, the horror of war and the pain and suffering that it brings. The role of conscientious objectors, the necessity of war and other reasons for it are other topics considered. Besides getting into the ugly aspects of war (that seems to be a pleonasm,) I

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