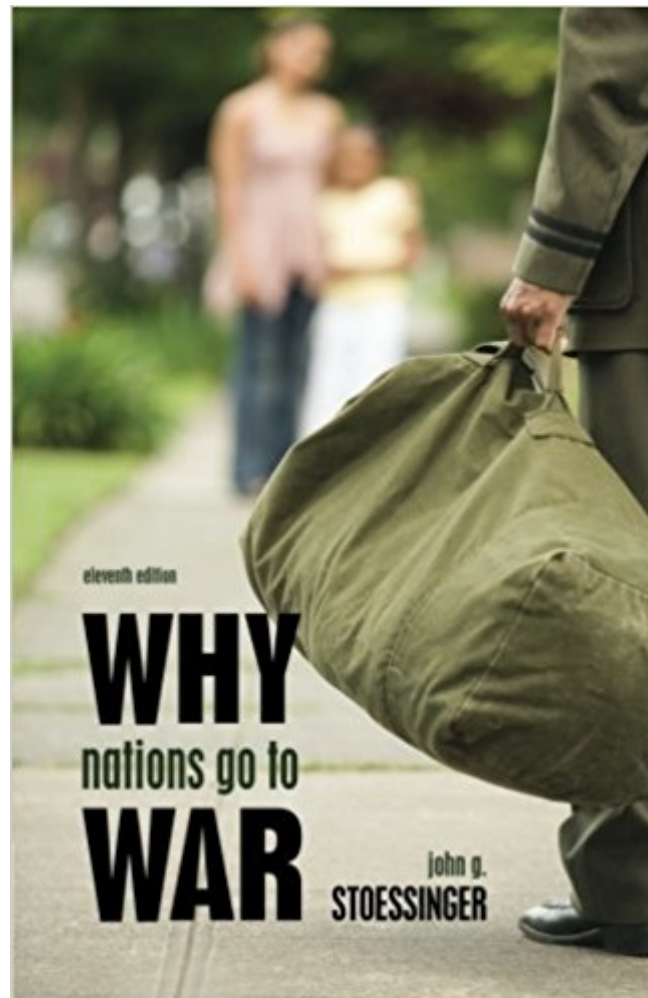




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Why Nations Go To War



Synopsis

WHY NATIONS GO TO WAR is unique. The reflections of author John G. Stoessinger are built around ten case studies and provide a deep analysis of the root causes of modern war, from World War I to the modern day. The author's main emphasis is on the pivotal role of the personalities of leaders who take their nations, or their following, across the threshold into war. Students are sure to remember Stoessinger's thoughts on war long after their completion of his book. The new 11th edition is completely updated, including references to the recent elections in Afghanistan.

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Customer Reviews

"In this eleventh printing, rich in erudition and lucidity, John Stoessinger provides possible answers to timeless yet urgent questions. Students of diplomacy and political science will benefit from his remarkable insight." -Elie Wiesel

Dr. John G. Stoessinger is an internationally recognized political analyst and a prize-winning author of ten leading books on world politics. He holds a Ph.D. from Harvard and has taught at Harvard, M.I.T., Columbia and Princeton. From 1967-1974, he served as acting director of the political affairs division at the United Nations. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and lectures extensively throughout the world. On the eve of World War II, Dr. Stoessinger fled from Nazi-occupied Austria to Czechoslovakia. Three years later, he fled again via Siberia to China,

where he lived for seven years in Shanghai. He has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Bancroft Prize. He presently serves as Distinguished Professor of Global Diplomacy at the University of San Diego, and has been listed in WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA and WHO'S WHO IN THE WORLD since 2002 to the present.

Why Nations Go To War has become an iconic text in the study of war and peace. The tenth edition of the text includes chapters on the United States post 9-11 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the results of which are still unfolding before us. Stossenger's historical case studies from WW1 to present are readable and yet full of depth, which made the 432 pages that comprise this book just fly by as the reader is taking on a tragic journey into each presidents or dictators war room. The conclusions he draws are not so perfect, however. For Stossenger, war is rooted in misperceptions and diluted self-interests of individual leaders and decision makers. A group-think mentality seems to emerge as leaders bind themselves to courses of action and any person or intelligence information that dares question the dominant view is cast aside. I'm willing to buy in to a point, but I have two central problems with the whole idea that leaders make war, as persuasive as the argument may be: 1. One leader can't just make war, particularly in democratic societies where there's a military establishment, various advisors and public opinion that a politician needs to worry him/herself with. 2. This implies that if a different leader were in charge that war may not occur. We can't say such a thing. I'm particularly thinking of the Vietnam case where four successive US Presidents--both Republican and Democrat deepened involvement in Vietnam. If we begin engaging in if...then thinking then we've lost the war against understanding war, in my view. Bottom line: Stossenger is golden on history, but his ideas are part of a debate that has raged for decades. Pick up the book and make up your own mind on the links between misperception and war.

Great book.

I bought this for my son's World Topics class for his senior year. Part of his summer assignment was to read the first chapter. He & I went on a long road trip this summer, so he read the first chapter out loud so we could both enjoy it. We weren't sure what to expect and history is not his favorite subject. Sometimes history books can be dull to read, but we found this book to be very interesting and easy to follow. It really helped open our eyes to the real story behind the start of World War I. I look forward to reading more of it. The biggest drawback to this book is the price. I honestly can't imagine why it is so expensive.

This book provides an insight into the minds of powerful leaders of influential societies across the world. Any student who has a passion for politics will appreciate the content of this book.

Thank you

This is a great book with great analysis from the author. This essay although it's lengthy, but provide great understanding. I developed a great loving for this title and love the epilogue greatly

This book is very useful. Understanding how a handful of people in powerful positions has effected so many lives by making war is appalling. More needs to be done to protect humanity from this evil element of so called leaders.

Not in very good condition for the price. Both front and back covers had several creases and coffee stains. Inside the book was lots of pencil and more highlighting than I expected. The only reason I give it 3 stars is because all pages are in tact and it is readable.

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