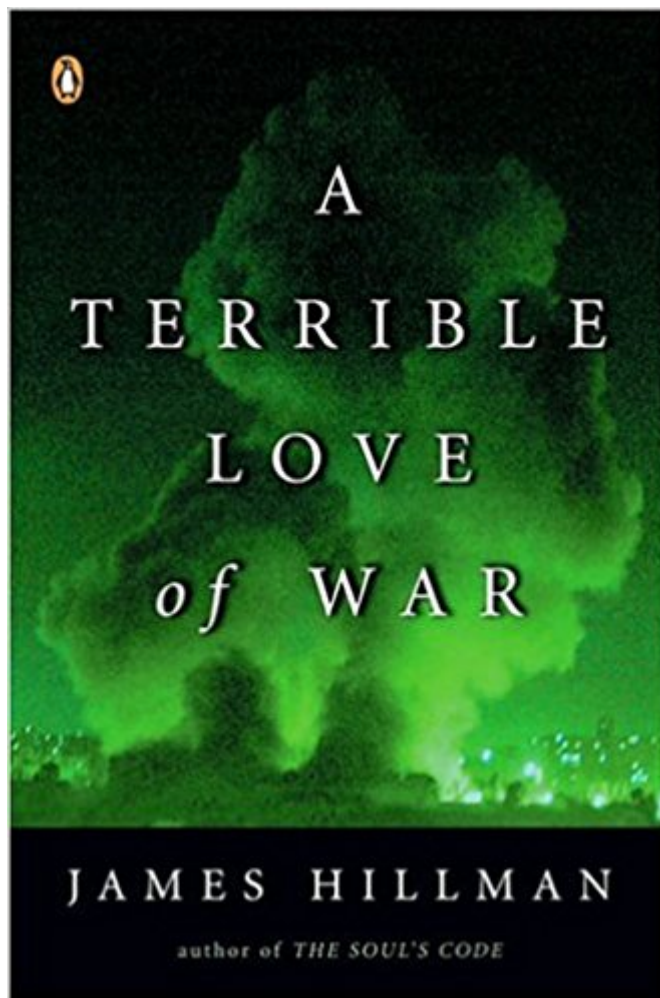


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A Terrible Love Of War



Synopsis

War is a timeless force in the human imagination and, indeed, in daily life. Engaged in the activity of destruction, its soldiers and its victims discover a paradoxical yet profound sense of existing, of being human. In *A Terrible Love of War*, James Hillman, one of today's most respected psychologists, undertakes a groundbreaking examination of the essence of war, its psychological origins and inhuman behaviors. Utilizing reports from many fronts and times, letters from combatants, analyses by military authorities, classic myths, and writings from great thinkers, including Twain, Tolstoy, Kant, Arendt, Foucault, and Levinas, Hillman's broad sweep and detailed research bring a fundamentally new understanding to humanity's simultaneous attraction and aversion to war. This is a compelling, necessary book in a violent world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Why do we love war? asks Jungian psychoanalyst Hillman, author of the bestselling *The Soul's Code*. One might ask in reply, Do we, in fact, love war? Hillman answers unequivocally in the affirmative, skewering modern pretension to prefer the Prince of Peace to the god of war. Mars is the central character in Hillman's exploration of war as an archetypal impulse. "The whole bloody business," he writes, "reveals a god, therewith placing war among the authentic phenomena of religion. And that is why it is so terrible, so loved, and so hard to understand." His portrayal of war as an implacable force, a primary element of the human condition, is unsettling, as is his description of war as a "beautiful horror" but he cites enough memoirs and letters written by those in the heat of battle to convince that it can have a kind of beauty for combatants. Hillman also

effectively evokes the transcendent, Mars-like fury that overtakes soldiers in battle ("I felt like a god... I was untouchable," writes one). Throughout, Hillman offers other disturbing insights: readers may feel a shock of recognition when he compares our addiction to viewing war (whether real or cinematic) to the viewing of pornography, noting that we are all voyeurs. But Hillman's mesmerizing prose loses its impact when he launches a sneering attack on Christianity (and the U.S., where "we are all Christians") for being a warrior religion. And perhaps only Jungians will understand his baffling assertion that aesthetic passion (or, in archetypal terms, devotion to Venus) can slow our ceaseless rush to war. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Important reading for our time, as we try to make sense of our terrors." "San Francisco Chronicle"[Hillman's] portrayal of war as an implacable force, a primary element of the human condition, is unsettling." Publishers Weekly

I have loved James Hillman since I heard of him and met him in 98 in Mendocino. I am lucky to have his picture, his smile. He is a wonderful elder and dances with style and grace. I wish I had seen him tap dance more than a few steps. . .

A page turner of great depth (yes, that is possible). It speaks of war as a mythic rather than a socio-political experience. One of the best twenty books I have ever read. Boom.

Great Book and Excellent Customer Service from Hawthorne Academic

Reads like drama. Just the time it takes to turn the page produced an anxiety reaction as I was so eager to keep reading. A extremely well written cogent main thread is inter-populated with short "just in the right spot" and "just the right length" diversions. I especially enjoyed the diversion about Japan(1543-1879)and guns. A very nice presentation model. Hillman presents war as an archetypal suprahuman truth he calls Mars or Ares. The book really gives no hope for the eradication of war as Hillman states towards the end: "But war itself shall remain until the gods themselves go away." As a vet, I also recommend this book for any veterans who otherwise might not be interested in psychology and mythology or give a hoot about archetypes. uniquely fascinating!

Hillman shows formidable scholarship as he takes the reader through a tour of western civilization in

terms of man's propensity for aggression against his own species. Hillman is especially good in using classical texts to develop his thesis. This book will not persuade those who dogmatically insist that man is essentially a loving creature, but it will prove to many readers that violence is as much a part of human nature as kindness. War is mankind's ineluctable destiny.

This is an incredible book. Hillman shakes all previous positions and shows the reader that war is the 'norm'. That does not mean he finds that laudatory, it just is. "A Terrible Love of War" is not life-changing, but it is mind-changing.

I have no complaints about my last purchases. The negotiation was great and the product arrived before time and brand new.

In "A Terrible Love of War", Hillman examines war in a manner analogous to a psychologist working to understand the pathological behaviour of a person in depth therapy. This approach takes us on an engaging and extremely challenging journey into the archetype of war. On the way we meet famous men of battle, we rediscover the Greek gods Ares and Aphrodite (Mars and Venus), we catch a transferential glimpse at Hillman the man in some autobiographical "confessions", and finally come face to face with the war monger within the sacrificial lamb of God. It's confronting because Hillman makes no attempt to "explain" war, but leads us instead to understand it and the dark role it plays in our psyches, individually and collectively. It's a book that will reward careful and considered reading. I'm sure you will revel in his rhetoric, see the myth in his madness, and most of all, admire Hillman's unique approach to this most challenging subject, as I have.

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