



War and Anti-War: Survival at the Dawn of the 21st Century

By Alvin Toffler, Heidi Toffler

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Two leading futurists analyze war in the past, offer insight into modern conflicts, and examine the future face of war based on the idea that forms of war and of economic activity are parallel. 150,000 first printing. \$150,000 ad/promo. Tour.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The husband-and-wife team who collaborated on *Future Shock* present a chilling look at possible future wars. As set out in their earlier collaboration, *The Third Wave* (1980), the Tofflers' scenario portrays a world once bisected into First Wave (agrarian) and Second Wave (industrial) powers changing drastically as the U.S., Europe and Japan move toward a Third Wave economy that creates and exploits electronic information and advanced technology. The result on the battlefield, they claim, is the potential for more wars dominated by "knowledge strategy" and featuring high-tech weaponry such as battlefield robots, pilotless combat aircraft, omniscient surveillance satellites, non-lethal weapons like sleep-inducing agents, and by low-cost "niche warfare" using special forces. The Tofflers sketch a preventive strategy for peace that includes the sharing of information technology to halt weapons proliferation and the creation of a "rapid reaction contingency broadcasting force" capable of beaming news anywhere in the world.

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From Library Journal

Joined by wife Heidi, Alvin Toffler (*Future Shock* , LJ 7/70; *The Third Wave* , LJ 4/1/80; *Powershift* , LJ 11/1/90) here turns to the subject of war. Seeing the phenomena of war as related to the level of technology and production in society, they focus on the "Third Wave" form of war, as exemplified by the Gulf War. Taking way too much credit for their own influence on the thinking of military strategists, the Tofflers discuss how the new production technology has transformed war from the "Second Wave" warfare (i.e., the Vietnam-era military) to a new era of "smart bombs" and "intelligent" weapons systems. In addition, they argue that new forms of war require new forms of thinking about peace. Despite its occasional glibness, the Tofflers' work is recommended as a stimulus to thinking about the future of global military and political conflict. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 5/15/93.

- *Richard B. Finnegan, Stonehill Coll., North Easton, Mass.*

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From Kirkus Reviews

An appraisal of armed conflict that will strike most readers as a typically slick Alvin Toffler production--despite the byline given to wife Heidi and the bulletin that Alvin wrote *Future Shock*, *The Third Wave*, and other bestsellers with her help. Here, the authors offer a quickstep guide to warfare in the idiosyncratic context of their wave theory--which, broadly speaking, divides world history into agrarian, industrial, and technological eras. Starting with the hand-to-hand combat of ancient times, they eventually get to WW II's high-explosive and nuclear horrors. Desert Storm, the Tofflers argue, was a showcase for a new generation of intelligent armament (smart bombs and the like) that promises to minimize if not eliminate the importance of brute-force firepower and set-piece battles. Among other examples, the authors cite the possibility of microrobots able to invade an adversary's headquarters, programmable ordnance, and sonic systems that could disable enemy troops without killing them. In the meantime, the Tofflers warn, the breakup of the USSR hasn't made a peaceable kingdom of the Global Village. Indeed, they assert, more rather than fewer brushfire wars are likely to break out, owing to economic and ethnic rivalries, political demagoguery, religious fanaticism, the erosion of nation-states' sovereignty, and allied causes. Worse yet, unstable regimes in backward lands have easy access to state-of-the-art biological, chemical, and other weapons, including missile-delivery systems. Given the high-tech dangers of a small planet, the Tofflers conclude, reasonably enough, that it would be a fine idea for Western leaders and their counterparts in less-favored climes to devise innovative ways to give peace a chance. Worst-case scenarios that afford fans of the doomsday genre

a multiple choice of bang-or-whimper endings for a weary world. -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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