

## Why We Fight: Defeating America's Enemies - With No Apologies

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### Prologue: What It Means to Be a Freedom Fighter

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all dictatorships want the population disarmed, and that a citizen without a means to protect himself and his liberty is not a truly free man.

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“The loss of liberty is always but one generation away.” There will always be those—whether they are Hitler’s divisions, Stalin’s spies, today’s jihadists, or tomorrow’s unknown threat—who would rob us of our freedom and destroy the values of our Judeo-Christian civilization if our vigilance flags.

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the central aspect of all conflict is the will to win.

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but the most important ingredient for victory is a will to win that is greater than your enemy’s.

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“Although material factors are more easily quantified, the moral and mental forces exert a greater influence on the nature and outcome of war,” which is “an extreme test of will.”

### Chapter 1: Why We Must Always Be Ready to Fight

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violence is driven most often by avarice: the desire to obtain a material good without paying or working for it. At

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Carl von Clausewitz famously described war as “the continuation of politics by other means.”

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there are three reasons to

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send men to kill other men. The first is fear—fear of what will happen if one does not fight. The second is honor—a concern to maintain or restore a society’s prestige. The third is self-interest—the profit of the community.

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fog of war: the lack of clarity and certitude on the battlefield which can be penetrated only by the skill of the military commander.

#### Highlight(yellow) - America’s Warriors: Stephen Decatur > Location 468

This is the real reason Thomas Jefferson owned a Koran. No proto-multiculturalist, he simply wanted to understand the threat jihadism posed to his young nation.

### Chapter 2: War Isn’t Just about Guns and Bombs: When Ideas Kill

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Clausewitz was correct that all war is a battle of

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wills. Propaganda has an important role to play in all conflicts since each side desires to influence the behavior and attitude of both its own people and those it wishes to defeat.

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Sun Tzu’s definition of the perfect victory: winning without fighting. How can this be done?

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By convincing your adversary—be it a country, terrorist group, or an insurgency—that it cannot defeat you or that its victory will be too costly.

### Chapter 3: What Do You Need to Know about War?

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Each is an example of a “holy warrior” prepared to die not for a political end state, but for a transcendental truth, judged by his capacity to inspire other violent non-state actors.

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The enemy’s recruiting pool is not based on a nation-state—it is global.

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The population from which ISIS draws warriors is not territorially bound, but religiously defined by the idea of the ummah, or the global Islamic community.

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The trinity of war for today’s irregular enemy

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In other words, the components of the Clausewitzian trinity have become utterly fluid and interchangeable.

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This has profound implications for the resources the enemy can mobilize against us. We are faced by an Arab terrorist as the leader of ISIS, but the violence carried out in the name of the “truth” that he serves can be executed by a Nigerian “underwear bomber” on a commercial airliner or by an Uzbek terrorist turning his truck into a lethal weapon on a Manhattan bicycle path. There are no limits to who can be recruited and deployed against us. The only requirement is that they subscribe to the religious ideology that is global jihad, or to the next totalitarian belief system that justifies violence against anyone who disagrees with its adherents.

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in the wars America fights today, national interest no longer governs the enemy’s use of force. Rather, it is a truth defined not by a governing elite, but by ancient religious

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texts or the interpretations thereof by ideologues with both political and otherworldly motivations.

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the insurgent could systematically build a “counterstate”—a shadow government that, when powerful enough, could challenge the incumbent in a conventional campaign, destroy it, and then become the new state itself.

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groups like ISIS and al-Qaeda fight for worldwide religious supremacy. Their idea of self-determination is tied not to the nation-state, but to a global theocracy, the Caliphate, within which all shall be subject to the will of Allah and not the will of the people.

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With an enemy who sees himself as divinely justified, the expression of war as a competition of wills is more important than ever.

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we face a foe who knows that war starts with ideas and depends on them far more than it depends on just weapons.

### Chapter 4: Winning the Next War: Know Your Enemy

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President Obama’s preference for “leading from behind.” In a world of presidential “apology tours” and American “strategic patience,” the real bad guys stepped into the vacuum so created and destabilized whole regions of the planet. The world was on fire. Russia had invaded its neighbor Ukraine, China was aggressively building militarized artificial islands in international waters, Iran was charging ahead with its nuclear weapons program despite the mullahs’s lucrative deal with the United States, North Korea was launching missiles over Japan, and ISIS had established the first caliphate since 1924. There were more than sixty-five million refugees from violence around the world, a number unsurpassed even during World War II.

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The sooner the United States understands that the age of conventional warfare is past and that it faces irregular warfare from Russia, China, and “super-insurgencies” like the Global Jihadist Movement, the sooner it will be able to defeat or neutralize them.

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True insurgencies, like al-Shabaab and the Taliban, have a mass base of support and so many fighters that they can operate openly in daylight, capture territory, and hold it. Regular terrorist groups are by nature much smaller. Lacking a mass base of support, they must operate covertly. They

#### Note - Location 1224

Difference between an insurgency and terrorist groups and how they operate.

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they all share a proximate goal: the defeat and displacement of the government they are fighting.

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Never before had an insurgency captured and held land in multiple nations of multiple regions. In this case, the Middle East and North and West Africa.