

*Dead bodies don't count: Civilian casualties and the forgotten costs of the Iraq Conflict* written by Richard Hill and Paul Wilson (Zeus Publications, 2007) is an extraordinary book for many reasons.

It is beautifully written for intelligent audiences and, to date is the only explicated and developed critical analysis of the machinations of the remaining world superpower to justify the holocaust occurring in Afghanistan, Iraq and (soon) Iran.

This book pulls no punches and is a gritty and realistic portrayal of events which reveals a disturbing practice – state terrorism. The actions of the neo conservative Christian Right who is in the ‘driving seat’ in the US and its vassals comprising the “coalition of the willing” are shown to be what and who they are. Motivated by both greed and fundamentalist religion, the leaders of the coalition of the willing have utilized their vast publicity machines to insure that the axiom “The first casualty of war is truth” characterizes the current situation.

Of course, exposing the underbelly of the American Empire’s expansion into the mid East is not a pleasant topic. However, this book remains alongside Pilger’s film work as essential reading for a complete understanding of just how far the Empire is willing to go to profit from war. The book left me feeling angry and deeply concerned about our fellow human beings... for both the line soldiers and civilians.

It will, no doubt be one of those classic works which spawns and galvanizes a coherent resistance to the ‘dogs of war’. I believe it to be a ‘must read’ for all those who are and will become resisters to war.

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