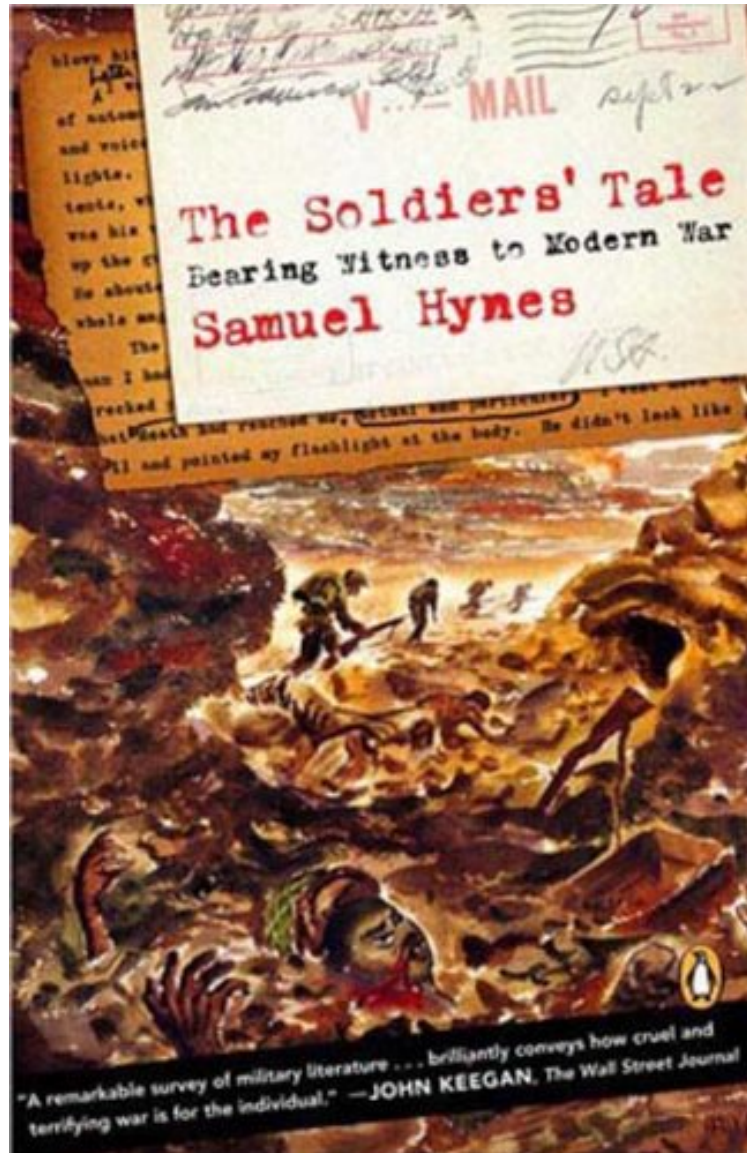


(Download free ebook) The Soldiers' Tale: Bearing Witness to a Modern War

The Soldiers' Tale: Bearing Witness to a Modern War

Von Samuel Hynes

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Von Samuel Hynes : The Soldiers' Tale: Bearing Witness to a Modern War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Soldiers' Tale: Bearing Witness to a Modern War:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A detailed examination of the soldiers' literature of war. Von Ein Kunde Along with the three great books on war by Paul Fussell, Samuel Hynes' book will stand as a landmark. Hynes, like Fussell, as a veteran of World War II writes with a deep personal as well as a literary insight. Unlike Fussell he also participated in the Korean war. Both men became

professors of literature at major universities, and both men write with skill and feeling. This work exhibits a very special form of literary criticism. No doubt other books will be written about the effects of the 20th Century's wars on the men who fought them, but there will be none that is better conceived or better executed. By examining the extensive literature of the century's wars, particularly the literature of the wars' participants, he comes closer than any writer I have read to date, with the possible exception of Paul Fussell, to understanding and explicating its effects. Hynes tells the truth by citing from and describing the works of war's participants. The excellent notes and an extensive bibliography of personal narratives of modern war add immeasurably to the book's value. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Through the eyes of those who fought Von Scott Samuel Hynes background as a Marine bomber pilot in World war II helped intensify his focus in bringing "Soldier's Tale" to life. His keen eye for detail and brilliant analysis of human experience makes this a fascinating read. The accounts bear witness to the difficulties men faced in World War II and Vietnam and is a discovery of mankind and how they act and react during times of intense struggle. The accounts, filled with fear, anger, frustration and courage must be remembered and not just stored away on some dusty shelf. Within these pages you stare face to face into the brutal reality of survival versus death, and walk away with a glimpse into what it was like for those who were there.

Kurzbeschreibung The Soldier's Tale is the story of modern wars as told by the men who did the actual fighting. Hynes examines the journals, memoirs, and letters of men who fought in the two World Wars and in Vietnam, and also the wars fought against the weak and helpless in concentration camps, prisoner-of-war camps, and bombed cities. Interweaving his own reflections on war with brilliantly chosen passages from soldiers' accounts, he offers vivid answers to the question we all ask of men who have fought: What was it like? In these powerful pages the experiences of modern war, which seem unimaginable to those who weren't there, become comprehensible and real. The wide range of writers examined includes both famous literary memoirists like Robert Graves, Tim O'Brien, and Elie Wiesel, and unknown soldiers who wrote only their war stories. Using these testimonies, Hynes considers each war in terms of its special circumstances and its effects on men who fought. His understanding of the psychology of warfare--and of each war's role in history--gives this study its intellectual authority; the voices of the men who were there, and wrote about what they saw and felt, give it its powerful dramatic impact. com Having served as a Marine pilot in World War II and the Korean War, Princeton literature professor Samuel Hynes is closely acquainted with conflict. He collates his experiences with those of dozens of other witnesses--poets such as Wilfred Owen and Ernst Jnger, conscience-stricken warriors such as Ryuji Nagatsuka and Philip Caputo, and resistance fighters such as Lucie Aubrac and Elena Skryabina. Many of these witnesses are men and women from all sides of many struggles and from whom we've not heard before. Their voices add weight to Hynes's ideas that war is strange and terrible, and is waged largely against the innocent and powerless. From Publishers Weekly Surveying the war writings of 20th-century Britons and Americans, Hynes (The First World War and English Culture) offers a convincing analysis of war narratives as combining elements of travel writing, autobiography and history in a context of experiences that involve exile from the subject's "real" life. Strangeness, he finds, is the principal constant of war narratives. War is alien to everyday experience, for death is war's essential point. At the same time, he finds that memories of war incorporate an affirmation of having been there. War expands the limits of the possible. It offers an intensity unmatched in ordinary life, and its hardships are overshadowed by its drama. Hynes recognizes that his focus on literary sources privileges the middle-class voice. His justification that the bourgeois experience is the modern focal point of self-analysis and self-recording isn't entirely persuasive. Many of his conclusions, moreover, replicate those of Glenn Gray's The Warriors. Still, he makes an honorable contribution to the literature on the complex subject of men's motives for accepting war's physical and psychological demands. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.