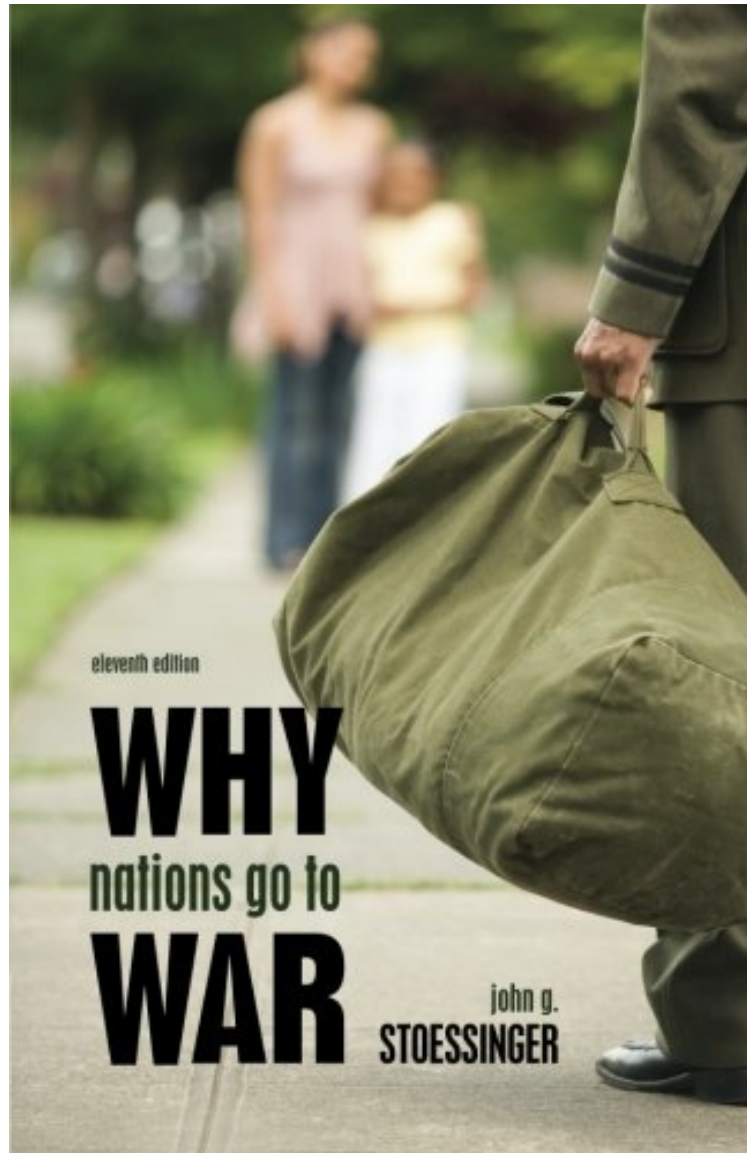


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## Why Nations Go to War

*John G. Stoessinger*

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#312315 in Books 2010-02-18 2010-02-18Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x 1.09 x 5.50l, 1.05 #File Name: 0495797189480 pages | File size: 24.Mb

**John G. Stoessinger : Why Nations Go to War** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why Nations Go to War:

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Good Historical Narratives...Unsure of ConclusionsBy Michael GriswoldWhy Nations Go To War has become an iconic text in the study of war and peace. The tenth edition of the text includes chapters on the United States post 9-11 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the results of which are still unfolding before us. Stossenger's historical case studies from WW1 to present are readable and yet full of depth, which

made the 432 pages that comprise this book just fly by as the reader is taking on a tragic journey into each president's or dictator's war room. The conclusions he draws are not so perfect, however. For Stossenger, war is rooted in misperceptions and diluted self-interests of individual leaders and decision makers. A group-think mentality seems to emerge as leaders bind themselves to courses of action and any person or intelligence information that dares question the dominant view is cast aside. I'm willing to buy in to a point, but I have two central problems with the whole idea that leaders make war, as persuasive as the argument may be: 1. One leader can't just make war, particularly in democratic societies where there's a military establishment, various advisors and public opinion that a politician needs to worry him/herself with. 2. This implies that if a different leader were in charge that war may not occur. We can't say such a thing. I'm particularly thinking of the Vietnam case where four successive US Presidents--both Republican and Democrat deepened involvement in Vietnam. If we begin engaging in it...then thinking then we've lost the war against understanding war, in my view. Bottom line: Stossenger is golden on history, but his ideas are part of a debate that has raged for decades. Pick up the book and make up your own mind on the links between misperception and war. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great book By Family shopper Great book. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Why Nations Go to War By Boogie woman I bought this for my son's World Topics class for his senior year. Part of his summer assignment was to read the first chapter. He I went on a long road trip this summer, so he read the first chapter out loud so we could both enjoy it. We weren't sure what to expect and history is not his favorite subject. Sometimes history books can be dull to read, but we found this book to be very interesting and easy to follow. It really helped open our eyes to the real story behind the start of World War I. I look forward to reading more of it. The biggest drawback to this book is the price. I honestly can't imagine why it is so expensive.

WHY NATIONS GO TO WAR is unique. The reflections of author John G. Stoessinger are built around ten case studies and provide a deep analysis of the root causes of modern war, from World War I to the modern day. The author's main emphasis is on the pivotal role of the personalities of leaders who take their nations, or their following, across the threshold into war. Students are sure to remember Stoessinger's thoughts on war long after their completion of his book. The new 11th edition is completely updated, including references to the recent elections in Afghanistan.

"In this eleventh printing, rich in erudition and lucidity, John Stoessinger provides possible answers to timeless yet urgent questions. Students of diplomacy and political science will benefit from his remarkable insight." -Elie Wiesel  
About the Author Dr. John G. Stoessinger is an internationally recognized political analyst and a prize-winning author of ten leading books on world politics. He holds a Ph.D. from Harvard and has taught at Harvard, M.I.T., Columbia and Princeton. From 1967-1974, he served as acting director of the political affairs division at the United Nations. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and lectures extensively throughout the world. On the eve of World War II, Dr. Stoessinger fled from Nazi-occupied Austria to Czechoslovakia. Three years later, he fled again via Siberia to China, where he lived for seven years in Shanghai. He has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Bancroft Prize. He presently serves as Distinguished Professor of Global Diplomacy at the University of San Diego, and has been listed in WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA and WHO'S WHO IN THE WORLD since 2002 to the present.