

INTRODUCTION

These essays, although organized under seven headings, have one underlying theme: opposition to the warfare state that robs us of our liberty, our money, and in some cases our life. Conservatives who decry the welfare state while supporting the warfare state are terribly inconsistent. The two are inseparable. Libertarians who are opposed to war on principle, but support the state's bogus "war on terrorism," even as they remain silent about the U.S. Global Empire, are likewise contradictory. Christians who condone the warfare state and its nebulous crusades against "evil" have been duped. There is nothing "Christian" about the state's aggressive militarism, its senseless wars, its interventions into the affairs of other countries, and its expanding empire.

These seventy-nine essays also have one thing in common—they were all published on the premier anti-state, anti-war, pro-market website, LewRockwell.com, during the period from October 29, 2003, to November 19, 2007. The vast majority of them were written exclusively for that website and have never appeared in print until now. LewRockwell.com is the brainchild of Lew Rockwell, the founder and president of the Ludwig von Mises Institute in Auburn, Ala., and a leading opponent of the central state, its wars, and its socialism.

Each essay is reprinted verbatim, with the exception of the correction of a few minor errors. It should be noted, however, that the original spelling, capitalization, and punctuation are followed in all quotations. Because they were published on the Internet, most of the essays originally contained numerous links to documentation and further information on the Web that the reader could click on if he desired. Because this feature is not possible in a printed format, the reader is encouraged to consult the online versions of each essay at LewRockwell.com, where, thanks to the wonders of technology, they are archived. Many of the essays also originally included pictures, which, for space considerations, are not included here.

Although many of these essays reference contemporary events, the principles discussed in all of them are timeless: war, militarism, empire,

interventionism, the warfare state, and the Christian attitude toward these things. The essays in each chapter are listed in their order of publication. With the exception of the essays on the U.S. Global Empire in chapter 7, which are better read chronologically, the essays can be read in any order.

The first chapter of the book, “Christianity and War,” and especially the initial essay of the same name (which also furnishes the book with its title), should be regarded as the key portion of the book. War is a subject that needlessly divides and sidetracks Christians. It is the author’s contention that Christian enthusiasm for the state, its wars, and its politicians is an affront to the Saviour, contrary to Scripture, and a demonstration of the profound ignorance many Christians have of history. In chapter 2, “War and Peace,” the evils of war and warmongers and the benefits of peace are examined. In chapter 3, “The Military,” the evils of standing armies and militarism are discussed, including a critical look at the U.S. military. In chapter 4, “Christianity and the Military,” the idea that Christians should have anything to do with the military is shown to be illogical, immoral, and unscriptural. In chapter 5, “The War in Iraq,” the folly of U.S. policy in Iraq is laid bare. In chapter 6, “Other Wars,” the evils of war and the warfare state are chronicled in specific wars: the Crimean War (1854–1856), the Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905), World War I (1914–1918), and World War II (1939–1945). In chapter 7, “The U.S. Global Empire,” the beginnings, growth, extent, nature, and consequences of the U.S. Empire of bases and troops are revealed and critiqued.

The books listed at the close under “For Further Reading” include not only some of the more important books referenced in the essays, but other recommended works that relate in some way to the warfare state. Most of them are available from Amazon.com. The inclusion of any book should not be taken as a blanket endorsement of everything contained in the book or anything else written by the author.

It is my desire in all of these essays to show, as Randolph Bourne said many years ago, that “war is the health of the state.”