

INTRODUCTION

This third edition of *Christianity and War* is not a book I ever intended to publish—until the resurgence of Christian militarism during the second term of Donald Trump.

These essays have one underlying theme: the relation of biblical Christianity to war and the military. If there is any group of people that should be opposed to war, death, destruction, militarism, and the warfare state with its suppression of civil liberties, imperial presidency, government propaganda, and interventionist foreign policy it is Christians, and especially conservative, evangelical, and fundamentalist Christians who claim to strictly follow the dictates of Scripture and worship the Prince of Peace.

These sixty-nine essays also have one thing in common—they were all published on the premier anti-state, anti-war, pro-market website, LewRockwell.com, from October of 2003 to March of 2026. The vast majority of them first appeared on and were written exclusively for that website.

The first edition of this book, published under the longer title of *Christianity and War and Other Essays Against the Warfare State*, was issued in 2005. It contained thirteen essays, four of which were included in the second edition of 2008 and retained in this third edition. In addition to essays relating to Christianity and war, the first edition also included essays on the evils of war, specific wars, and the U.S. global empire. The second edition grew to seventy-nine essays. In addition to essays relating to Christianity and war, it also included essays on war and peace, the military, Christianity and the military, the war in Iraq, other wars, and the U.S. global empire. Although a third edition was planned, two things served to redirect my intentions.

Because the second edition had already grown in size to 432 pages and I had written so much on these subjects since its publication, a third edition would just be too large of a book if I tried to include everything I had written on these subjects since the publication of the second edition. Additionally, since one part of the book and much of the additional material consisted of essays with a decidedly Christian theme, while the other part of the book and much of the additional material was more secular in nature, it seemed best to organize the

existing and new material along these themes. So, instead of issuing an unwieldy one-volume third edition, I opted to collect all of the former material into *War, Christianity, and the State: Essays on the Follies of Christian Militarism* (2013), and issue the latter material in a companion volume titled *War, Empire, and the Military: Essays on the Follies of War and U.S. Foreign Policy* (2014).

In the years since the publication of those two books, although I continued to write extensively about the military, I wrote fewer essays about the other topics. Nevertheless, I still had enough new material to substantially increase the size of both books. But because it would not be prudent to issue two unwieldy second editions of those books, I demurred—until the resurgence of Christian militarism during the second term of Donald Trump.

Prudence prevailed, but not at the expense of principle. I decided that the best course of action was to return to my roots and issue a third edition of *Christianity and War* containing just the best of my essays on the two most important topics: Christianity and war and Christianity and the military.

As in the first two editions of this book, 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. The essays in each part of the book are listed in their order of publication. Each part as well as its individual essays can be read in any order.

In part 1, “Christianity and War,” Christian apologies and enthusiasm for war is shown to be an affront to the Saviour, contrary to Scripture, and a demonstration of the profound ignorance many Christians have of history. In part 2, “Christianity and the Military,” the idea that Christians should have anything to do with the military is asserted to be illogical, immoral, and unscriptural.

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 Christianity and war. 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.

Although many of these essays reference contemporary events, the principles discussed in all of them are timeless. It is my desire in each of these essays to show that war and militarism are incompatible with biblical Christianity.