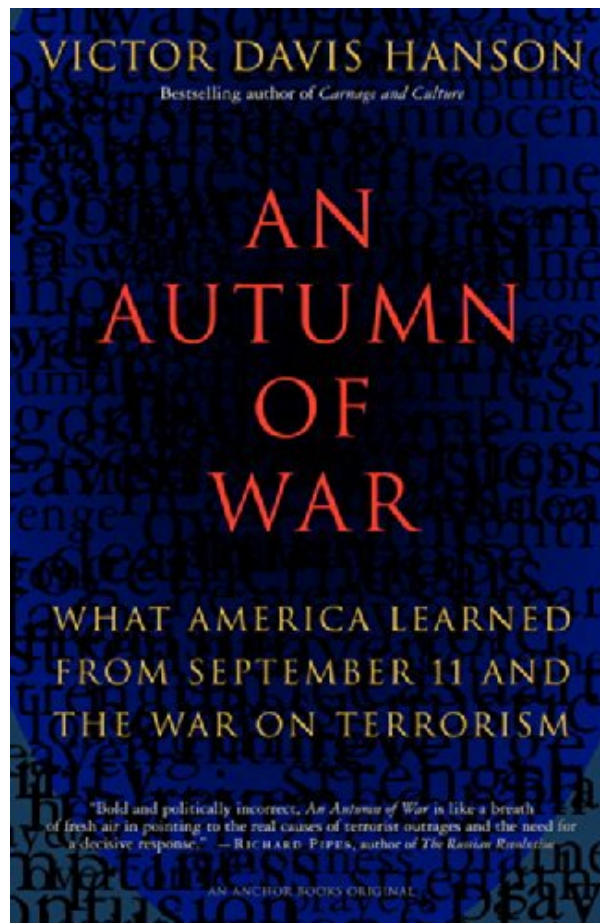
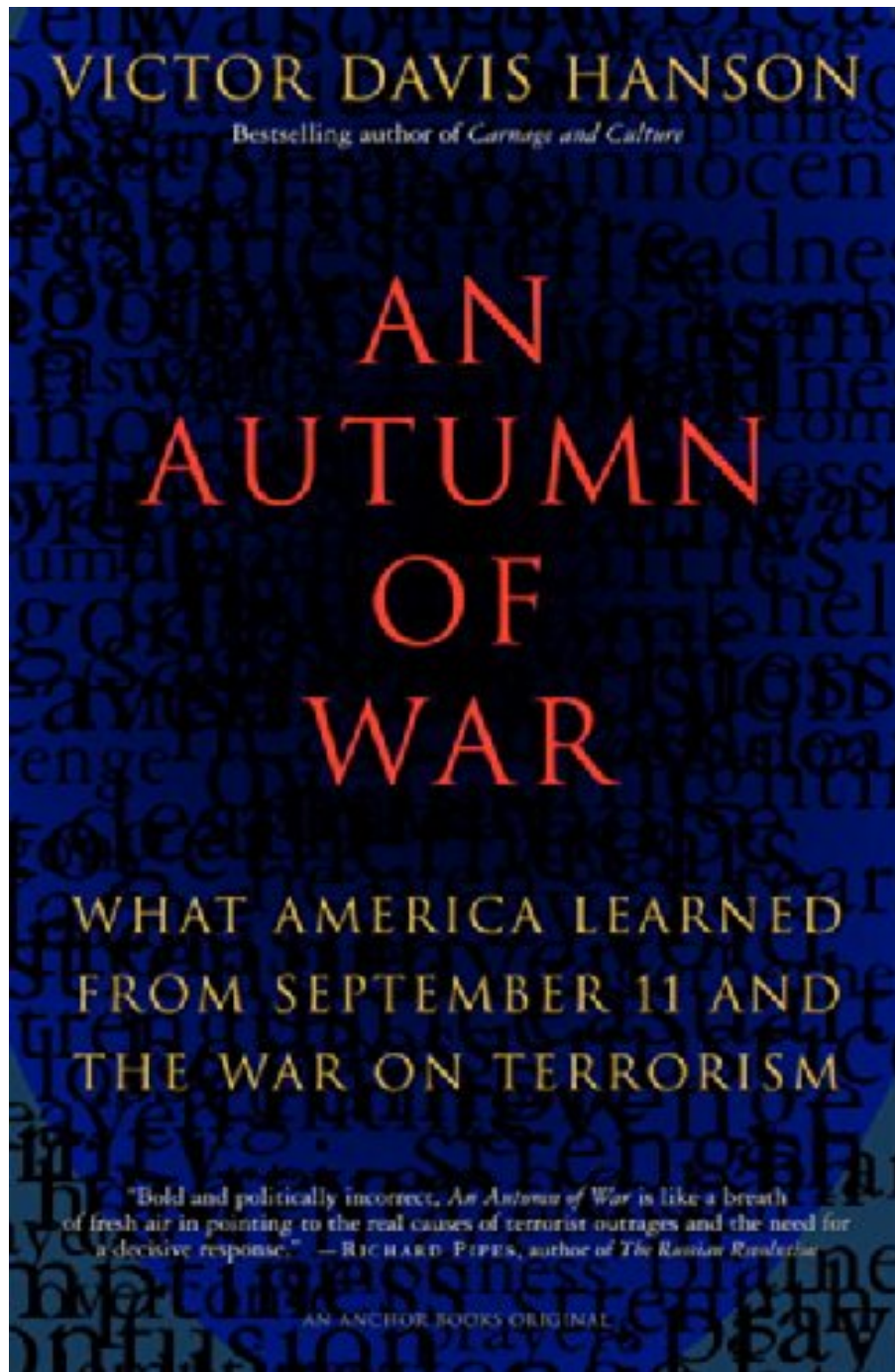


AN AUTUMN OF WAR: WHAT AMERICA LEARNED FROM SEPTEMBER 11 AND THE WAR ON TERRORISM BY VICTOR HANSON



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“Victor Hanson is a national treasure. No one has written with such great prescience about the present war or more accurately predicted the course of events, on the fighting front, at home, and around the world. His wisdom arises from a deep knowledge and understanding of history, ancient and modern. His uncanny accuracy in prediction comes from a full and clear grasp of the facts and the application to them of an informed understanding of human nature and of the character of war. All this he presents in clear, vigorous, and eloquent prose. Every American needs to learn from him.” —Donald Kagan, author of *On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace*

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On September 11, 2001, hours after the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, the eminent military historian Victor Davis Hanson wrote an article in which he asserted that the United States, like it or not, was now at war and had the moral right to respond with force. *An Autumn of War*, which opens with that first essay, will stimulate readers across the political spectrum to think more deeply about the attacks, the war, and their lessons for all of us.

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The War on Terror and How to Win

By Cody Carlson

A collection of essays published after the 9/11 attacks, Victor Davis Hanson's brilliant "*An Autumn of War, What America Learned from September 11 and the War on Terror*" is an intelligent and thoughtful blueprint for prosecuting the the present conflict. Hanson's predictions have mostly come true, such as the need for the US to take on not only the Taliban but also Saddam in the wake of the attacks. He offers important warnings throughout to the American people not to let their disgust and horror with terrorism wane as their own casualties begin to accrue.

This book contains many essays that shed light on America, the Islamic world, and the nature of warfare, both classical and modern. Hanson presents humorous counter-factual essays with "What If?" and "The Time Machine" in which America's war against terror is compared with its war against Japan in WWII, where pundits and talking heads debate the 'misunderstood' Japanese and debate the moral repercussions of the Doolittle Raid. In "Pillars of Ignorance" and "The Iron Veil", Hanson takes the Islamic world to task for its denial of liberties, and lack of truly free institutions such as a free press, and he writes of how America needs to adopt almost a Cold War approach to the Mid East as a bloc. "It Really Is Your Father's Europe" looks at our European allies and their foot dragging after 9/11 while offering insights on how to deal with them in the future. In "General Sherman, the Western Way of War, and September 11", Hanson considers Sherman's role in history and how the old warrior would view America's present conflict. A similar riff is offered in "A Voice from the Past", a wonderful 'interview' with Thucydides in which the Greek general and historian gives his take on the War on Terror.

These are just some of the many insightful and compelling essays in this collection. Each one pulls no punches and demands that Americans wake up to the frightening realities of the 21st century world. Throughout, however, Hanson remains optimistic of America's ability to prevail against an Islamic world that needs us far more than we need it. This is a wonderful and important book.

11 of 17 people found the following review helpful.

Clarity!

By A Customer

Hanson is something else. After reading *Soul of Battle*, and *Carnage and Culture*, I couldn't wait to see what Hanson had to say about 9/11. I was not dissappointed. More than anyone else, his writing has helped me to

come to my senses and see clearly the war we must fight, and which we will win. Whatever our faults in the West, in the USA, we still represent the best opportunity and hope for most people of this world. We have a right, an obligation, to defend what we have, and what the USA represents. Hanson shows through history how countries who did not stay strong, who dallied when the enemy was at the gate, suffered the most. Similarly, most deaths from tyrants occurs outside the battlefield, and happens while killers and tyrants are allowed to do what they wish. Acting now will save lives in both the USA and the rest of the world. I am moved and feeling confident that right and strength, backed by compassion and morality, will see us through to the other side of this scary time. Yes, I can see now that my government is doing what has to be done, and I have confidence.

33 of 40 people found the following review helpful.

Clarity, conviction and credibility

By R. WHITTEN

Hanson has emerged in my mind as one of the best political commentators since George Will. His phenomenal knowledge of the history of Western civilization and its military actions brings great breadth and depth to his observations of current affairs. His lifelong connection to the farmer's soil gives him a far more realistic and credible world view than the academic elite from which he frequently tries to distance himself (a remarkable feat for a Professor of Classics).

This book is a compilation of essays written during the three months after the September 2001 terrorist attacks. I fully expected that there would be dated material and some degree of redundancy, since they appeared originally in different venues. Neither fear was realized. His reliance on universal patterns of human behavior makes these commentaries even more relevant today, after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, than they were at the time they were written. I could find no instance where his predictions about either Administration actions or military and political outcomes did not come to pass.

His writing style is very clear and flows easily. His frequent allusions to military battles over the past two millennia may leave some readers with a feeling that he is being pedantic. But his sense of humor and bluntly stated (often politically incorrect) opinions make the reader's experience a joy.

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