

Nimo’s War, Emma’s War: Making Feminist Sense of the Iraq War

By Cynthia Enloe

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Nimo, Maha, Safah, Shatha, Emma, Danielle, Kim, Charlene. In a book that once again blends her distinctive flair for capturing the texture of everyday life with shrewd political insights, Cynthia Enloe looks closely at the lives of eight ordinary women, four Iraqis and four Americans, during the Iraq War. Among others, Enloe profiles a Baghdad beauty parlor owner, a teenage girl who survived a massacre, an elected member of Parliament, the young wife of an Army sergeant, and an African American woman soldier. Each chapter begins with a close-up look at one woman’s experiences and widens into a dazzling examination of the larger canvas of war’s gendered dimensions. Bringing to light hidden and unexpected theaters of operation—prostitution, sexual assault, marriage, ethnic politics, sexist economies—these stories are a brilliant entryway into an eye-opening exploration of the actual causes, costs, and long-range consequences of war. This unique comparison of American and Iraqi women’s diverse and complex experiences sheds a powerful light on the different realities that together we call, perhaps too easily, “the Iraq war.”

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Editorial Review

Review

“Stories help illustrate how gendered politics change over the course of a war and how this thing we call war itself changes over time.”
(*Ms. Magazine* 2010-05-20)

“Enloe’s new work is a great addition to her oeuvre on women, militarism and consumer culture in international perspective.”
(Carrie Rentschler *Times Higher Education* 2010-08-26)

From the Inside Flap

"*Nimo's War, Emma's War* is unique in examining the gendered dimension of the Iraq war, particularly its impact on ordinary Iraqi and American women, thereby revealing an important long-term cost of the conflict. Cynthia Enloe's approach and analysis are extremely original and innovative."—Nadje Al-Ali, author of *What Kind of Liberation?: Women and the Occupation of Iraq*

"*Nimo's War, Emma's War* is Cynthia Enloe's darkest and most strikingly conceived text to date. War is not 'in' Iraq and Afghanistan, where foreign militaries confront local people, rather it is everywhere, most particularly in 'peacetime' domestic spaces, 'civilian' employment, marital bedrooms and high schools."—Terrell Carver, author of *Politics, Language and Metaphor*

"Cynthia Enloe has pioneered the subject of women, militarism, and war in a series of revelatory books, including *Bananas, Beaches, and Bases*, T*he Morning After: Sexual Politics at the End of the Cold War*, and *Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives*. *Nimo's War, Emma's War* is her best one yet."—Chalmers Johnson, author of *The Blowback Trilogy*

"Brilliantly researched, vividly written, Cynthia Enloe has gifted us with a new and different story of modern warfare. Entirely gripping and profoundly humane, every page raises new issues. To factor in Nimo and Emma—all the women and families touched by the carnage and agony of war, is to see the bitter range of tragedy community by community. To read this book is to ask: What are we doing to our children—all our children, combatants and civilians? How do women cope with post-war wounds and violence—agony, wreckage, displacement? Cynthia Enloe's book is essential reading for all students and journalists, public citizens and peace activists, who seek women's dignity, healthy societies, humane alternatives to the insanity of careless military destruction."—Blanche Wiesen Cook, author of *The Declassified Eisenhower, Eleanor Roosevelt* (vols I & II, III forthcoming)

About the Author

Cynthia Enloe is Research Professor of Women's Studies and International Development at Clark University. She is the author of *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics*, *Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives*, *The Morning After: Sexual Politics at the End of the Cold War*, and *The Curious Feminist: Searching for Women in a New Age of Empire*, all from UC Press.

Cynthia Enloe won the Howard Zinn Lifetime Achievement in Peace Studies Award from the Peace and Justice Studies Association (PJSA).

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