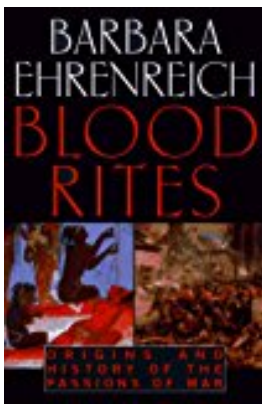


# [PDF] Blood Rites: Origins And History Of The Passions Of War

**Barbara Ehrenreich - pdf download free book**

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**Books Details:**

Title: Blood Rites: Origins and Hist  
Author: Barbara Ehrenreich  
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**Description:**

In this ambitious work, Barbara Ehrenreich offers a daring explanation for humans' propensity to wage war. Rather than approach the subject from a physiological perspective, pinpointing instinct or innate aggressiveness as the violent culprit, she reaches back to primitive man's fear of predators and the anxieties associated with life in the food chain. To deal with the reality of living as prey, she argues that blood rites were created to dramatize and validate the life-and-death struggle. Jumping

ahead to the modern age, Ehrenreich brands nationalism a more sophisticated form of blood ritual, a phenomenon that conjures similar fears of predation, whether in the form of lost territory or the more extreme ethnic cleansing. *Blood Rites: Origins and History of the Passions of War* may not offer a cure for human aggression, but the author does present a convincing argument for the difficulties associated with achieving peace.

**From Library Journal** Social critic and Time magazine essayist Ehrenreich (*The Worst Years of Our Lives*, LJ 4/15/90) turns her attention here to anthropology, delving into the causes of man's age-old interest in war. Her remarkable thesis is that primitive peoples were defined not so much by a killer predatory instinct as by their role as prey for other animals. Social constructs such as war and ritual sacrifice then developed as ways to reenact the primal emotions of being prey—the terror of facing a hungry beast. Her thesis is fascinating, and the anthropological exposition is well written and convincing, if mainly speculative. Ehrenreich's last section, which uses scattered examples from modern history to illustrate the "sacralization" of war, is also intriguing (if somewhat less convincing). Recommended for both public and academic libraries. —Robert Persing, Univ. of Pennsylvania Lib., Philadelphia  
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