Contents

Introduction 9
Chronology 17

Chapter 1: Background on Ernest Hemingway

1. The Life of Ernest Hemingway 23
   Gale Contextual Encyclopedia of American Literature
   Ernest Hemingway was one of the great writers and prose stylists of the twentieth century. Early on, as a journalist, he developed the lean prose style that would be a hallmark of his career.

2. Hemingway Learned and Lost from His War Experiences 34
   Peter Moreira
   Hemingway’s war experiences benefited his fiction but also caused him physical and emotional distress.

3. Writers Tell the Truth About War 47
   Ernest Hemingway
   A writer’s job is to present the truth, but covering a war is a dangerous profession and writers may never live to see the results of their efforts.

4. For Hemingway, War Was Inevitable and Criminal 52
   Erik Nakjavani
   Hemingway’s pervasive interest in war has left many readers wondering whether he supported violence. Hemingway despised warfare, but, being realistic about its inevitability, he used war to study how people react in extreme situations.
5. Hemingway Kept Politics Out of His Art

*Frederick R. Benson*

Hemingway believed that politics was transitory, but art was forever. In writing for posterity, he tried to keep away from politically motivated art.

**Chapter 2: For Whom the Bell Tolls and War**

1. Hemingway Strived to Write About Truth

*Shabnum Iftikhar*

Hemingway used his life experience to write *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, showing a realistic portrayal of war.

2. Hemingway Shows All Sides of War

*Peter Messent*

In *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Hemingway uses multiple narrative points of view in order to provide a comprehensive picture of a complex war.

3. Hemingway Refused to Write War Propaganda

*Jeffrey Meyers*

While Hemingway and his protagonist in *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Robert Jordan, both sided against the Fascists during the Spanish Civil War, Hemingway refused to write war propaganda in his novel.

4. Hemingway’s Characters Fight for a Cause

*Peter L. Hays*

Robert Jordan’s stand against Fascism in *For Whom the Bell Tolls* marks a progression for the Hemingway protagonist, who, in Hemingway’s earlier works, was wary of causes.

5. *For Whom the Bell Tolls* Is a Novel About How to Die

*Scott Donaldson*

During the course of the novel, Robert Jordan receives instruction in how to die. Having learned such a lesson, at the end he rejects suicide and faces his death with dignity.
6. Pilar’s Massacre Story Depicts the Brutality of Humankind

Allen Josephs

Pilar’s massacre story, vividly narrated in great detail, is a study in humankind’s brutality toward other humans. It was not meant to be a political attack against the Republicans who perpetrated the violence but a statement about how every death diminishes humankind.

7. *For Whom the Bell Tolls* Is a War Epic

Carlos Baker

Hemingway’s novel takes the form of an epic, similar in meaning and style to Homer’s *Iliad*, as the events at the Spanish bridge take on universal importance.

8. Maria Is a Victim of War

Charles J. Nolan Jr.

Critics tend to view Hemingway’s women as two-dimensional. Psychoanalysis of Maria, however, reveals her to be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, a common aftereffect of war, and her condition creates empathy in the reader.

Chapter 3: Contemporary Perspectives on War

1. The Afghanistan War Must Be Won

The Economist

Despite the Afghanistan war’s costly toll in lives and dollars, losing the war would exact an even greater toll. America and Britain must continue their involvement in Afghanistan until the war is won.

2. The Media Fueled the Run-Up to the Iraq War

Matthew Rothschild

In the period leading up to the Iraq war, the American media did not do its job. Instead of casting a critical eye on the issues, the media let itself be manipulated into supporting a US invasion.
3. The Spanish Civil War Offers Important Lessons About the Iraq War

Stephen Schwartz

The Fascist victory in the Spanish Civil War led to World War II. An American victory in the Middle East might just prevent greater conflicts to come.

4. America Failed to Accomplish Its Goals in Iraq

Jed Babbin

America’s attempt to engage in nation building in Iraq backfired as Islamic militants found ways to subvert US interests. As the United States pursues its exit strategy, it is doubtful whether Iraq can become a truly democratic state.

5. Obama’s War Tactics Are Subtle Yet Deadly

Luiza Ch. Savage

President Obama has shifted his Middle East strategy away from the large-scale military force that characterized the George W. Bush war effort to more precise, technology-enabled missions. Obama’s subtler style of warfare has proven to be as equally effective as that of his predecessor.

6. Middle East Revolutions May Not Lead to Democracy

Pauline H. Baker

The so-called Arab Spring may lead to the overthrow of tyrants and dictators, but it does not necessarily ensure that a democratic state will emerge. The aftermath of revolution must be carefully orchestrated for a better political system to emerge.

For Further Discussion

For Further Reading

Bibliography

Index