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## UNMAKING WAR, REMAKING MEN: HOW EMPATHY CAN RESHAPE OUR POLITICS, OUR SOLDIERS AND OURSELVES

Amidst all of the war news that saturates our lives, Kathleen Barry's new book answers the question "Is war inevitable?" with an empathic "No!" And she offers a way out. Revealing how, in demilitarized states, violence against women persists at high levels, Barry, a sociologist, turns to men and shows how they are made expendable for war. She then asks what is required for men to remake themselves, to disengage from "core masculinity," the socialized expectation of men as protectors and aggressors.

The author shows how the military's goal to drum empathy out of new recruits invokes harm in soldiers who are trained to become remorseless killers. This book is unique—with its exposé of how the blinding macho in wife abuse at home becomes the standard for fighting in war by state militaries and resistance militias alike.

Finding that state demilitarization does not decrease violence against women, Barry proposes a program for global peace-making that is based on remaking the masculinity that drives men to combat. Of this book, Robin Morgan says "*With the courageous vision, scrupulous scholarship, and heartfelt writing that has illumined her books on female sexual slavery, Kathleen Barry here focuses her laser-like intelligence on violence, militarism, and core masculinity. **Unmaking War, Remaking Men** makes the connections that could save us all. Ignore this book at your peril.*"

As if presaging the Wikileaks exposés of random killing by US soldiers in Iraq, Barry documents preventive killing as a daily occurrence in combat zones. She shows how preventive killing turns into a military strategy to make enemies which in turn perpetuates wars and feed military industries. This book, published October, 2010, challenges the U.S. preeminence in the world by exposing the other side of empathy – remorseless, psychopathic leadership in aggressor states, resistance forces and terrorist movements from George W. Bush to Ariel Sharon to Osama bin Laden.

Offering a history most Americans rarely consider, Barry contextualizes Hizbullah and Hamas as resistance movements against wars and occupations in Lebanon and of the Palestinians. She differentiates preemptive war from preventive wars: Israel against Lebanon in 2006, the U.S. against Iraq and Afghanistan showing how these wars constitute war crimes.

Barry's plausible plan to stop ongoing war includes a demilitarization of nation-states, a radically altered United Nations and an end to the expendability of men for war. War resisters are her model of men who engage their empathy and refuse the criminality often expected of them in combat and the macho required of them by society.

**About the Author:** Kathleen Barry, Professor Emerita, sociologist and feminist activist is the author of five books. Her first book, **Female Sexual Slavery**, launched an international movement against trafficking in human beings. 30-