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In Words and Deeds: Battle Speeches in History (Hardback)

By Richard F. Miller

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English . Brand New Book. Throughout recorded military

history, leaders have persuaded men to risk life and limb for

God, country, unit, comrades, and families; for plunder,

vengeance, glory, a lasting peace, or new conquests. Beginning

with the holy wars of the Hebrew Bible and continuing to the

present Iraq conflict, one constant motivator of men in war

has been the battle speech: the exhortatory words uttered by

commanders on the eve of invasions and before, during, after,

and between battles. In Greco-Roman times, battle speeches, as

recorded (or invented) by historians such as Herodotus,

Thucydides, and Livy were considered literary creations of a

high order. In the centuries that followed, both biblical and

Greco-Roman narratives established the templates that have

influenced military exhortations to the present day. Emotions

inspired by the battle speech might be universal, but

conceptions of God, the rules of war, and the proper objects of

warfare have evolved to reflect changes in cultural norms,

military organization, and technology. Richard F. Miller offers

the first systemic classification of battle speeches while

exploring how their contents have changed over time....



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