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## **THE AGE OF WARRIOR (ROBERT FISK)**

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## **1. Introduction to "The Age of the Warrior: Selected Writings":**

"The Age of the Warrior: Selected Writings" is a seminal collection of essays and articles compiled by Robert Fisk, a highly respected journalist renowned for his extensive coverage of Middle Eastern affairs. Published in 2008 by Forth Estate, an imprint of Harper Collins, the book offers readers a profound insight into the complexities of the Middle East's socio-political landscape through Fisk's compelling narratives and analysis.

## **2. Background on Robert Fisk:**

Robert Fisk, born in 1946, was a British journalist who dedicated much of his career to reporting on the Middle East. He served as a correspondent for The Independent and The Times, gaining a reputation for his fearless and incisive reporting from conflict zones such as Lebanon, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Fisk's deep knowledge of the region, coupled with his firsthand experiences, positioned him as one of the foremost authorities on Middle Eastern affairs.

Robert Fisk is probably the most celebrated foreign correspondent in Britain, and rightly so. This selection of his journalism finds him at full throttle as he inveighs against a host of familiar, but wholly deserving targets: Bush, Blair, the Iraq war, the insane Western policy towards the Middle East. His loathing of Blair, "this vain, deceitful man, this proven liar... who has the blood of thousands of Arab men, women and children on his hands", will strike a chord with millions. Fisk has an equal detestation of "Dubya" Bush, but by now there is nothing more to be said about a man whom history will surely judge as the worst US president ever.

Fisk, who knows the Middle East backward and is an Arabist, can find almost no consolation when he surveys the area: 150,000 people died in a civil war in Lebanon in 1975-90, caused by the West's meddling, but, since they were not Brits or Americans, no one cares. Another 200,000 died in Algeria when "our sonofabitch" government decided to ignore the results of an election, but there is no pro-democratic regime change they engineered by Washington. Turkey denies that its genocide of the Armenians in 1915 took place, yet its aspirations to join the EU are still taken seriously, again because of US pressure.

As Fisk scathingly remarks, Bush ("the David Irving of the White House") can warn us that Iran is a possible cause of a Third World War yet cannot tell the truth about Turkey in the First. Some of his choicest invective is reserved for Israel: "When Israelis are involved, our moral compass, our ability to report the truth dries up." It has got to the point of doublethink that Webster's Dictionary defines "antisemitism" as "opposition to the state of Israel".

Fisk is brilliant at dissecting the clichés, bromides, stock phrases, and euphemisms the Western media use when cozying up to Israel. My favorite is the nonsense whereby, whenever an Israeli soldier shoots someone dead, the victim is always described as caught in the "crossfire". Fisk has been accused of exaggeration, but the Israel Defence Force recently sought to justify the killing of the British filmmaker James Miller by an Israeli soldier, saying he should have realized the dangers of "crossfire".

Fisk's pessimism is not even-tempered when he regards his colleagues. He has some good stories about the cliché-ridden "training" of journalists in the 1960s, where drunken, cynical old hacks would preach the virtues of "hard news" to callow trainees. Fisk makes the valuable point that the ideology of the concrete so beloved by this school of journalists always has the net effect of giving the status quo and its supporters an easy ride. So far from achieving "balance", the "just the facts" approach buttresses existing elites.

Fisk is accused of going over the top in his savage indignation, but my main complaint is that he is not savage enough. He rightly sees the humbug and hypocrisy of the Clintons but does not go for the jugular. A strong case can be made that Bill's sexual shenanigans cost the Democrats the 2000 presidential election and lumbered us with "Dubya". Yet in general, 500 pages of his truthful scorn left me wanting more. O brave old world, that has such journos in it.

### **3. Overview of the Book:**

The article provides a comprehensive overview of "The Age of the Warrior: Selected Writings" by Robert Fisk, a renowned journalist acclaimed for his coverage of Middle Eastern affairs. The detailed summary covers various aspects of the book, including its background, themes explored, analysis of Fisk's perspective, and the significance of his work.

"The Age of the Warrior: Selected Writings" encompasses a diverse range of topics, including historical events, political developments, and cultural dynamics in the Middle East. Through a selection of his most compelling articles and essays, Fisk offers readers a comprehensive overview of the region's complexities, challenges, and enduring conflicts.

"The Age of the Warrior: Selected Writings" is a significant anthology of essays and articles penned by Robert Fisk; a distinguished journalist acclaimed for his comprehensive coverage of Middle Eastern affairs. Published in 2008 by Forth Estate, an imprint of Harper Collins, the book delves deeply into multifaceted dimensions of conflict, politics, and culture prevalent in the region.

Fisk's writings are characterized by a distinctive perspective shaped by his extensive field experience as a correspondent in the Middle East. Drawing from his firsthand encounters and observations, he offers profound insights into the intricate tapestry of the region's history, underscoring the enduring repercussions of colonialism, imperialism, and religious tensions on contemporary events and societal dynamics.

Throughout the compilation, Fisk's discourse is marked by a fervent and often critical analysis that challenges conventional narratives surrounding conflicts in the Middle East. He meticulously examines the role of Western intervention, interrogating the motives and repercussions of interventions spearheaded by powerful actors such as the United States and Israel. Moreover, Fisk meticulously scrutinizes the devastating consequences of military campaigns on civilian populations, shedding light on the human toll of warfare and violence.

In addition to dissecting geopolitical intricacies, "The Age of the Warrior" traverses' broader thematic terrain, delving into the intricacies of journalism amidst conflict. Fisk reflects on the imperative of bearing witness to atrocities, emphasizing the ethical obligations incumbent upon journalists operating in volatile environments. Furthermore, he probes the ethical quandaries confronted by reporters navigating the precarious landscapes of war and strife.

In essence, Fisk's compilation presents readers with a thought-provoking examination of the Middle East's turbulent history and the enduring struggles for justice, peace, and autonomy in the region. Through his incisive analysis and impassioned prose, Fisk invites readers to grapple with the complexities of the Middle East's socio-political landscape, urging collective engagement with its myriad challenges and aspirations.

#### **4. Analysis of Fisk's Perspective:**

Fisk's perspective is shaped by his extensive experience as a correspondent in the Middle East, allowing him to provide unique insights into the region's affairs. He approaches his subjects with a critical eye, challenging conventional narratives and offering readers a deeper understanding of complex issues.

#### **5. Exploration of Middle Eastern Affairs:**

Fisk delves into various aspects of Middle Eastern affairs, from the historical roots of conflicts to contemporary political dynamics. He explores the intricacies of regional politics, the impact of external interventions, and the aspirations of the people living in the region.

#### **6. Critical Examination of Conflicts:**

In "The Age of the Warrior," Fisk offers a critical examination of conflicts that have plagued the Middle East, including the Lebanese Civil War, the Gulf War, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He analyzes the underlying causes of these conflicts and sheds light on the human suffering they entail.

#### **7. Scrutiny of Western Intervention:**

Fisk scrutinizes the role of Western intervention in the Middle East, particularly by powerful actors such as the United States and Israel. He interrogates the motives behind Western interventions and assesses their impact on the region's stability and security.

#### **8. Themes Explored in the Book:**

"The Age of the Warrior" explores several recurring themes, including the impact of colonialism and imperialism, religious and ethnic tensions, humanitarian crises, and the ethical dilemmas faced by journalists reporting from conflict zones.

- **Impact of Colonialism and Imperialism:**

Fisk examines the lasting legacy of colonialism and imperialism in the Middle East, highlighting how these historical forces continue to shape contemporary events and socio-political dynamics in the region.

- **Religious and Ethnic Tensions:**

Fisk explores the complex interplay of religious and ethnic identities in the Middle East, shedding light on how these tensions contribute to conflicts and divisions within societies.

- **Humanitarian Crises and Civilian Suffering:**

Throughout the book, Fisk vividly portrays the human cost of war and violence in the Middle East, emphasizing the suffering endured by ordinary civilians caught in the crossfire of conflicts.

- **Journalism Ethics and Integrity:**

As a veteran journalist, Fisk reflects on the ethical responsibilities of reporters operating in conflict zones, emphasizing the importance of bearing witness to atrocities and maintaining integrity amidst challenging circumstances.

## **9. Significance of Fisk's Work:**

"The Age of the Warrior" holds significant importance as a testament to Fisk's enduring legacy as a journalist committed to truth-telling and holding power to account. His writings offer readers a compelling narrative of the Middle East's turbulent history and the ongoing struggles for justice and peace in the region.

## **10. Conclusion:**

In conclusion, "The Age of the Warrior: Selected Writings" stands as a testament to Robert Fisk's unparalleled insight and dedication to reporting on the Middle East. Through his compelling narratives and incisive analysis, Fisk offers readers a deeper understanding of the region's complexities and challenges.

## **Discourse Analysis:**

"The Age of the Warrior: Selected Writings" involves examining the language, themes, and perspectives presented to uncover deeper meanings and implications. Here's a breakdown of the discourse analysis:

### **1. Language and Style:**

The language used in the article is clear, articulate, and engaging, catering to a broad audience interested in Middle Eastern affairs and Robert Fisk's work.

Fisk's writing style is characterized by a blend of descriptive narration, analytical insight, and critical commentary, drawing readers into the complexities of the region's socio-political landscape.

### **2. Themes and Perspectives:**

The article explores various themes prevalent in Fisk's writings, including colonialism, imperialism, religious tensions, humanitarian crises, and journalism ethics.

Fisk's perspective is shaped by his extensive experience as a correspondent in the Middle East, offering readers unique insights and perspectives on the region's history, conflicts, and dynamics.

### **3. Critical Analysis:**

Through a critical examination of conflicts, Fisk highlights the human suffering and consequences of war in the Middle East, challenging conventional narratives and shedding light on the realities faced by civilians caught in the crossfire.

Fisk scrutinizes Western intervention in the region, questioning the motives and impact of powerful actors such as the United States and Israel, and advocating for a more nuanced understanding of geopolitical dynamics.

### **4. Ethical Considerations:**

Fisk reflects on the ethical responsibilities of journalists reporting from conflict zones, emphasizing the importance of integrity, empathy, and bearing witness to atrocities.



He navigates complex ethical dilemmas, grappling with the tensions between journalistic impartiality and moral obligations to expose injustice and hold power to account.

### **5. Interdisciplinary Insights:**

Fisk's analysis draws on interdisciplinary insights from history, politics, sociology, and journalism, enriching the discourse with diverse perspectives and methodologies.

He explores the intersectionality of various factors shaping the Middle East, including colonial legacies, religious identities, and geopolitical interests, offering readers a holistic understanding of the region's complexities.

### **6. Impact and Significance:**

The article underscores the significance of Fisk's work as a testament to his unwavering commitment to truth-telling, justice, and human rights in the face of adversity.

Fisk's writings resonate with readers, inspiring critical thinking, dialogue, and action on pressing issues confronting the Middle East and the broader global community.

In essence, discourse analysis reveals the depth, complexity, and significance of Robert Fisk's "The Age of the Warrior: Selected Writings," highlighting his contributions to understanding and engaging with the challenges and complexities of the Middle East.