

The Violence of War

To Do:

- *Read the summary below**
- *Read Barak p. 274 onwards, Box 6.2 p 179**
- *Watch Saving Private Ryan – on Netflix**
- *Read Violence of War: Readings 1, 2**
- *Go to the Discussion Forum and answer the questions**

The Violence of War

Key Themes: representations of violence; the impact of war; what is the difference between war and terrorism

“War is organized armed conflict. Virtually every human society, past and present, makes war”

For this class I would like you to watch the movie *Saving Private Ryan*. Why? This is because it is important for us to consider how violence is represented in movies, literature and the mass media. *Saving Private Ryan* – which is set during the invasion of Normandy in WWII – is an important movie; it was one of the first to portray the violence of war realistically. Many veterans of WWII praised the movie for its accurate depiction of the horror and brutality of combat.

Quentin Tarantino, who some of you mentioned in the first discussion forum, said of *Saving Private Ryan*, the director, “Spielberg is doing something unheard of with the opening of this movie..*Saving Private Ryan* made me aware of some issues raised

by the cinema of war that I was unable to ask on my own. The idea that forty men on a boat are exterminated in seconds by a volley of machine gun is terrifying. Can you imagine the most atrocious carnage? Obviously, yes. Except that throughout the scene, you are persuaded to attend the worst slaughter in history.”

Think about how the violence and the impact of war are portrayed in *Saving Private Ryan*.

War and Children

Violence of War: Reading 1

We have previously looked at the subject of child soldiers. This article considers further the impact of war on children.

http://www.redcross.int/en/mag/magazine2003_3/4-9.html

What is the Difference: War and Terrorism?

Violence of War: Reading 2 (attached)

In this paper that I wrote with Jock Young for the journal *Social Justice*, we explore some of the similarities and differences between war and terrorism, and in considering the concepts of ‘othering’ and ‘dehumanization’ attempt to explain how apparently ‘ordinary’ people can commit atrocities. I have posted this previously – when discussing the recent terrorist atrocities.

Discussion Forum by 12/ 10

- 1. What were your thoughts after viewing the portrayal of violence in Saving Private Ryan?**
- 2. What impact does war have on children?**
- 3. What do you think is the difference between 'war' and 'terrorism'.**