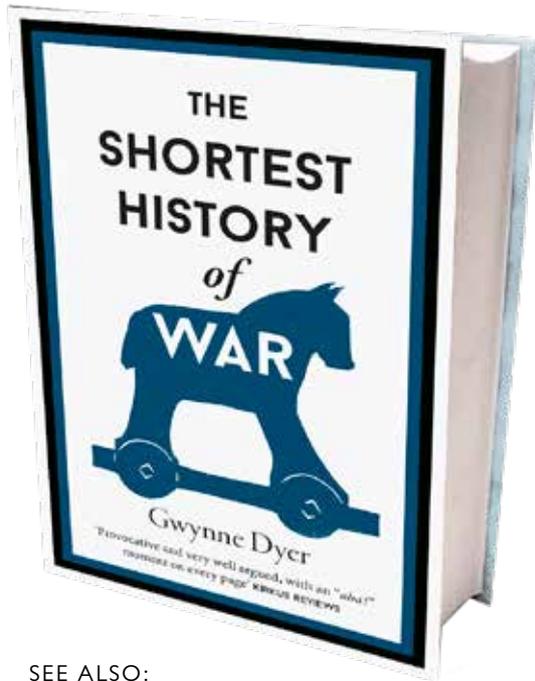


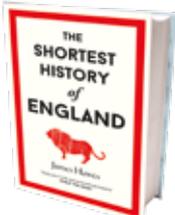


PRESS RELEASE

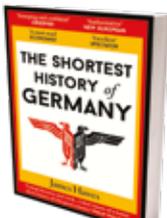
THE SHORTEST HISTORY OF WAR • GWYNNE DYER • HISTORY
11 MAY 2021 • £12.99 • 978-1-910400-84-5 • HB • 240PP



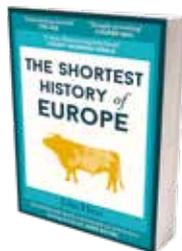
SEE ALSO:



9781910400692



9781910400739



9781910400807

GWYNNE DYER has worked as a freelance journalist, columnist, broadcaster and lecturer on international affairs for several decades. His documentary television series on the history of war was nominated for an Academy Award. He writes a twice-weekly syndicated column on international affairs, published by 175 papers in some 45 countries and translated into over a dozen languages. His next book is on geo-engineering, and will be published by Old Street in 2022. He lives in London.

'Provocative, agile and very well argued, with an a-ha! moment on nearly every page' KIRKUS REVIEWS

In this addition to the bestselling 'shortest history' series, acclaimed historian and military expert Gwynne Dyer tells the story of war from its prehistoric – perhaps pre-human – origins up to the present age of algorithms and atom bombs.

Dyer chronicles the spread of warfare in the world's first cities; the seemingly inexorable rise of inequality and tyranny as human societies expand; the millennium-long 'classical age' of combat ended by the firearm and the carnage of the Thirty Years' War; the brief ensuing interlude of 'limited war' before the popular revolutions of the 18th century ushered in an era of total war – itself abruptly halted by Hiroshima.

The final chapters deal with the precarious equilibrium of the past 75 years – the longest period of peace between major powers in modern history – and with the looming threats posed by nuclear proliferation, superpower rivalry and climate change.

PRAISE FOR GWYNNE DYER

'From the first armies to clashes of drones and "dirty bombs", this is eye-opening, big-picture stuff' BBC HISTORY MAGAZINE

'Entirely convincing... at once a valuable historical treatise and a fervent and compelling call toward pacifism.' PUBLISHERS WEEKLY on WAR

'ranges over the terrain of history, sparkling with insight and digressions... As an interpretive history of war, War is brilliant.' SEATTLE TIMES

'A calm and masterful analysis' SCOTSMAN on AFTER IRAQ

'A truly important and timely book... Dyer has made the most plausible set of guesses I have yet seen about the human consequences of climate change, how drought and heat may ignite wars, even nuclear wars, around the globe.'

JAMES LOVELOCK on CLIMATE WARS

'Dyer eloquently explores the "grim detail" of how governments will grapple with a challenge unprecedented since before there were governments... As an insight into what the military strategists imagine is going to happen as a result of climate change, this book is truly terrifying.' NEW SCIENTIST on CLIMATE WARS

'Dyer writes with easy fluency, and gentle wit.' IRISH TIMES

'Bold, unflinching, and based on exhaustive research... Climate Wars grippingly reveals how world leaders are likely to react, and promises to be one of the most important books of the year.' EDINBURGH SCIENCE FESTIVAL

- Gwynne Dyer is an long-established expert in the field, and a brilliant pundit. He lives in London and is available for interview.
- His book is topical and timeless: it illuminates our present dilemmas, but places them firmly in perspective. This is big-picture history.
- A proven, bestselling format.

For further information please contact Ben Yarde-Buller • ben.yb@oldstreetpublishing.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE: OLD STREET IS NOW DISTRIBUTED BY CENTRAL BOOKS
orders@centralbooks.com