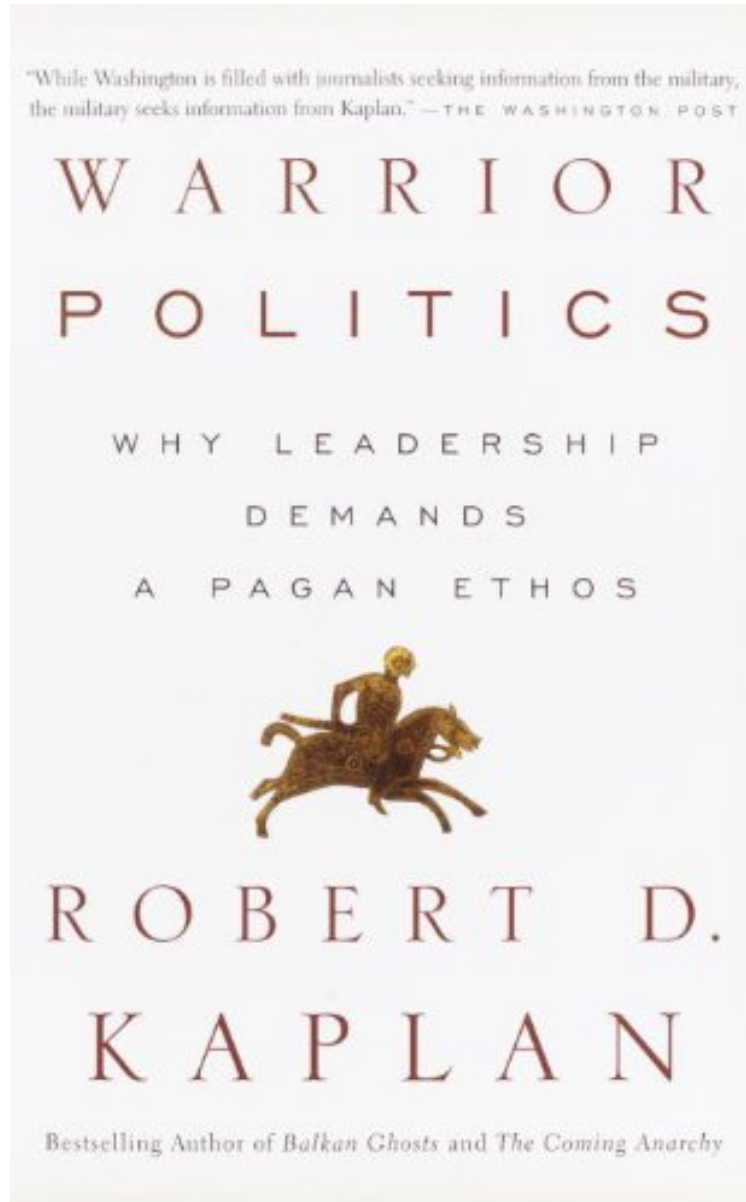



(Read free ebook) Warrior Politics: Why Leadership Demands a Pagan Ethos

Warrior Politics: Why Leadership Demands a Pagan Ethos

Robert D. Kaplan

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Robert D. Kaplan : Warrior Politics: Why Leadership Demands a Pagan Ethos before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Warrior Politics: Why Leadership Demands a Pagan Ethos:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Lessons In Virtue From the Outcomes of Successful Warriors. By JohnThe primary reason for my decision to attain a B.A. in History was to gain insight into the state of political affair during the 1970s. I felt that the past could be helpful in understanding the present and prepare for the future. Robert

Kaplan also draws on the past to offer a better understanding of real-politick in international relationships, and how military fundamentals correspond to shifting alliances to strengthen or secure their civilizations. In addition to listing chapter titles, Kaplan offers a brief summary of each which both extends the introduction of concepts and entices the reader to explore the connections among diverse leaders throughout time who have been successful in winning wars. This book is chocked full of perspectives ranging from Livy, Thucydides, Sun-Tzu, Machiavelli, and Churchill to Hobbes, Malthus, Kant, and E.H. Carr. The overriding lessons I learned was that my idea of virtue was incomplete (if not incorrect); outcomes define it in the real world, not good intentions. Kaplan explains that it is derived from its Latin form of vir-tu (strong man); and delineates moral virtue from Christian virtue, courtesy of Niccolo Machiavelli. The author cites Yitzhak Rabin's order to break Palestinian bones, during his service as Israel's defense minister, as virtuous. His show of strength won respect and eventually the peace with Jordan, as well as the admiration from liberals who had previously opposed him. In contrast, Kaplan cites Clinton's removal of China's most-favored-nation trade status as lacking virtue because this policy "was sanctimonious, undertaken with little hope of practical results, merely to demonstrate what the administration assumed was its superior morality." After reading this book, I wonder if my admiration for Zbigniew Brzezinski has undeservedly crowded out any merits Henry Kissinger may have in the field of geopolitical relationships. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant...By BoboBrilliant! While I do not agree or prescribe to every single philosophical point highlighted, the writing is top notch, accessible, and inspiring. So much so I have gifted the book to several young men of high school age considering military service. If nothing else it is a great introduction to philosophy and will inspire readers to seek further philosophy reading. I have not read anything else by this Kaplan though I have seen him on the Sunday Morning political talk show circus and I find the man too kumbaya for my taste. In this book he makes connections from past to present to future which, are not necessarily his own opinions but rather keen eyed historical observations. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A relevant read. By Rick A. Suerth Kaplan's 2002 observations are relevant in 2016 to a startling degree. This book is worth the time to read and reflect on in the context of current US and world politics.

ldquo;The side that knows when to fight and when not will take the victory. There are roadways not to be traveled, armies not to be attacked, walled cities not to be assaulted.rdqquo; mdash;Sun-Tzu We live in dangerous times, when a new kind of leadership is required. Visionary and ruthlessly strategic, Warrior Politics extracts the best of the wisdom of the ages for modern leaders who are faced with the complex life-and-death challenges of today's world; and determined to win. Sun-Tzu urges leaders to ldquo;plan and calculate like a hungry man.rdqquo; Machiavelli defines a policy not by its excellence but by its outcome. Churchill derives his greatness from his imagination of history. Livy shows that the vigor to face down adversaries must ultimately come from pride in our own past achievements. ldquo;Never mind if they call your caution timidity, your wisdom sloth, your generosity weakness,rdqquo; he writes. ldquo;It is better that a wise enemy should fear you than that foolish friends should praise.rdqquo; ldquo;Men often oppose a thing merely because they have no agency in planning it,rdqquo; Alexander Hamilton says, ldquo;or because it may have been planned by those whom they dislike.rdqquo; Replete with maxims, warnings, examples from history, and shrewd recommendations, Warrior Politics wrests from the past the lessons we need to arm ourselves for the present. It offers an invaluable template for any decision-maker; in foreign policy or in business; faced with high stakes and inadequate knowledge of a mine-filled terrain. As we gear ourselves up for a new kind of war, no book is more prescient, more shrewd, or more essential. From the Hardcover edition.

.com Robert Kaplan's Warrior Politics is an extended, willfully provocative essay arguing that the bedrock of sound foreign policy should be "comprehensive pragmatism" rather than "utopian hopes." Kaplan calls for a reestablishment of American (primarily) realpolitik, one distanced from Judeo-Christian (or private) virtue and closer to a "pagan" (public) one. He aligns himself with America's Founding Fathers, who, he says, believed good government emerged only from a "sly understanding of men's passions." His book is a mix of aphoristic pronouncements, brief contemporary political analyses, rapid-fire parallels between conflicts ancient and current, and copious quotes from historians and thinkers through the ages (Livy, Thucydides, Sun-Tzu, Machiavelli, and Thomas Hobbes among them). Though its historical gleanings are often too summary and suspiciously convenient, Warrior Politics promises to generate controversy among students of global politics--just as it was designed to do. --H. O'Billovitch From Publishers Weekly Years of reporting from combat zones in Bosnia, Uganda, the Sudan, Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Ethiopia and Eritrea have convinced Kaplan (Balkan Ghosts, The Coming Anarchy) that Thucydides and Sun-Tzu are still right on the money when they wrote that war is not an aberration and that civilization can repress barbarism but cannot eradicate it. Reminding readers that "The greater the disregard of history, the greater the delusions regarding the future," Kaplan conducts a brisk tour through the works of Machiavelli, Malthus and Hobbes, among others, to support his advocacy of foreign policy based on the morality of results rather than good intentions. From those classics, he extracts historical models and rationales for exploiting military might, stealth, cunning and what he dubs "anxious foresight" (which some may regard as pessimism based on disasters past) in order to lead, fight and bring adversaries to their knees should they challenge the prevailing balance of power. He also adapts this model to business, exploring

the ways modern-day CEOs can benefit from history's lessons. Kaplan's discussion of the world's breeding grounds for rogue warriors out to disrupt daily life in bizarre new ways will strike a chord with most readers, as will his recounting of the brilliant statesmanship of Churchill and Roosevelt during World War II. Some readers, however, may take exception to the potshots Kaplan aims at (unnamed) media personalities and human rights advocates. This is a provocative, smart and polemical work that will stimulate lively discussion. Agents, Brandt and Brandt. (Jan.)Forecast: Kaplan's credentials, combined with his call for a strong and unambiguous foreign policy, should draw attention. Blurbs from Henry Kissinger and former Secretary of Defense William J. Perry will help. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Aiming to advise foreign policymakers confronting global capitalism in a politically fragmenting world, Balkan Ghosts author Kaplan surveys the literature of leadership from Herodotus to Gen. George Marshall. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.