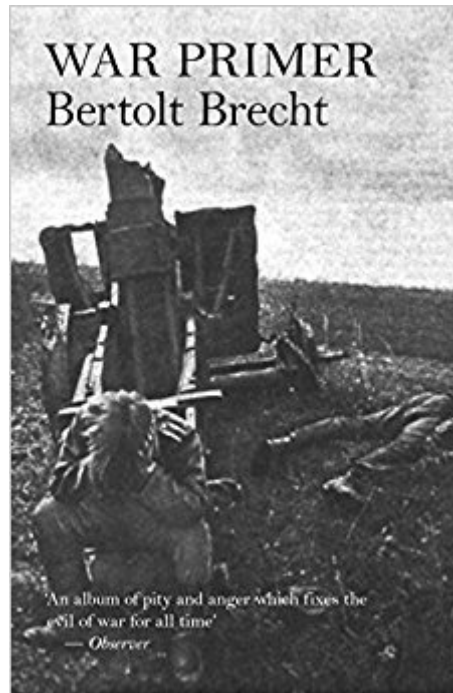


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War Primer



Synopsis

A terrifying series of short poems by one of the world's leading playwrights, set to images of World War II. In this singular book written during World War Two, Bertolt Brecht presents a devastating visual and lyrical attack on war under modern capitalism. He takes photographs from newspapers and popular magazines, and adds short lapidary verses to each in a unique attempt to understand the truth of war using mass media. Pictures of catastrophic bombings, propaganda portraits of leading Nazis, scenes of unbearable tragedy on the battlefield – all these images contribute to an anthology of horror, from which Brecht's perceptions are distilled in poems that are razor-sharp, angry and direct. The result is an outstanding literary memorial to World War Two and one of the most spontaneous, revealing and moving of Brecht's works.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“An album of pity and anger which fixes the evil of war for all time.”

Observer “A handsome edition of *War Primer*, a series of short poems illustrated and inspired by war photographs Brecht clipped from newspapers.”

David Edgar, *London Review of Books* “Tender, angry and incisive.”

Independent “A modern equivalent of Goya.”

Guardian “Brecht reprinted photographs from wartime mass-circulation magazines, replacing the captions with short poems about the essential truth of each image.”

Daily Telegraph “Deserves a

place of the shelves of every public and school library.”

Times Literary Supplement

Bertolt Brecht (1898–1956) was a German poet, playwright and theatre director. One of his country's most famous writers, he was forced into exile in 1933, returning from the United States to Switzerland in 1947, and to East Berlin in 1949. Some of his most famous plays are *The Threepenny Opera*, *Mother Courage*, *Life of Galileo* and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

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