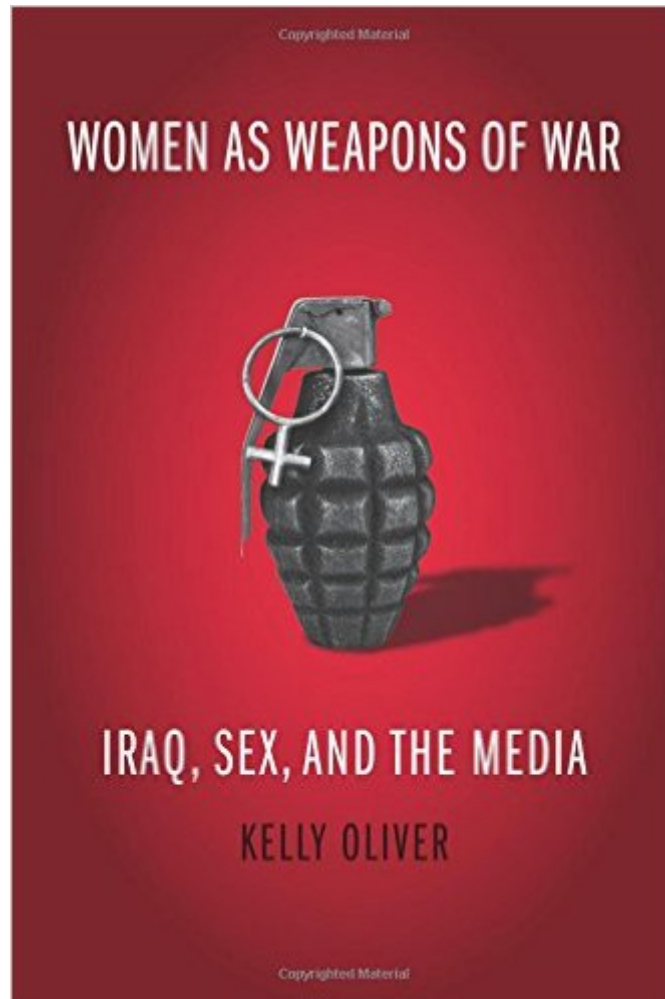


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# Women As Weapons Of War: Iraq, Sex, And The Media



## Synopsis

From the female soldiers of Abu Ghraib prison to Palestinian women suicide bombers, women and their bodies have been "powerful weapons" in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. Kelly Oliver reveals how the media and the George W. Bush administration used metaphors of weaponry to describe women and female sexuality and forge a link between vulnerability and violence. Oliver analyzes the discourse surrounding women, sex, and gender and the use of women to justify America's decision to go to war. She also considers the cultural meaning, or lack of meaning, that lead female soldiers at Abu Ghraib to abuse prisoners "just for fun," and the commitment to death made by women suicide bombers. She examines the pleasure taken in violence and the passion for death and what kind of contexts creates them. Oliver concludes with a diagnosis of our fascination with sex, violence, and death and its relationship with live news coverage and embedded reporting, which naturalizes horrific events and stymies critical reflection.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I read this book and felt like I've already read it. I had already read *One of the Guys* edited by Tara McKelvey and Cynthia Enloe's *Globalization and Militarism*, so when I read Oliver's book I felt like it didn't say anything new that I have not read in the two other books or in the New York Times. The two other books are superior in their reach and clarity of the topics. Oliver's book does delve into more theory and that aspect at times makes it interesting. But, overall for teaching purposes the other books are better. If you haven't read the two other books, then by all means read

this book first and I think you'll enjoy it. Audience for Oliver's book is more academic. It would be perfect in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the upper-division level or even graduate level.

This book is a unique perspective on women's involvement in violence in the Middle East and in the Iraq War. Kelly Oliver's insights into the connections between sex and violence are apt in our world saturated with real and virtual violence. It is unlike any other book on women and war out there. I recommend it!

Kelly Oliver's *Women as Weapons of War* challenges academic philosophy to extend its concerns beyond its usual audience and scope and engage meaningfully with current events. In this sense, Oliver's book accomplishes what most contemporary philosophy books (even those that portend to address issues like war, torture, terror, globalization, and so on) lack: a real confrontation with the shape of the contemporary world. At the same time, the book challenges the general public to reflect meaningfully on current events, their representations in the media, and the social and political forces that undermine our interpretative capacities. Oliver offers a set of critical tools that not only open analyses of America's recent and current war efforts, but also helps us to extend those analyses to our own everyday lives and ethics and politics more generally. Oliver's analyses are highly original and provide a unique vision that ties the individual's concrete, everyday, affective life to the larger functioning of international and global forces and representations. What is surprising is her uncanny ability to do so in a way that skillfully addresses such a large and diverse audience. This book is really for everyone: for scholars, students, journalists, activists, and those who are simply concerned with the role of sex, sexuality, and sexual/sexed violence in politics, war, and the media. In a word, read this book!

A fantastic book that should be read for interesting insights into current issues. Read it first in a feminist theory course, but I'm excited to keep it for future reference

This book is eye opening. It made me see connections between the treatment of women soldiers in the U.S. military and women suicide bombers in the Middle East. And, the criticisms of the media coverage of the war is very interesting and persuasive.

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