

Anthony J. Nocella II, Colin Salter, and Judy K.C. Bentley (eds.), *Animals and War: Confronting the Military-Animal Industrial Complex*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2014. 182 pp. ISBN 978-0739186510 (Hardcover). Price £48.

Nearly forty years after the publication of Peter Singer's *Animal Liberation*, this polemic study aims to integrate the fields of critical animal studies and peace studies in an effort to bring to light the impact of war on nonhuman animals. As made clear in the introduction by Colin Salter, *Animals and War* explores 'the exploitation of nonhuman animals as tools of war for human ends, on human terms and at the whim of anthropocentric, speciesist and human chauvinist notions' (p. 1). Although war is broadly defined by the authors to include the struggle between humans and animals, the book primarily focuses on the ways in which animals have been used in armed conflicts and military-related research, particularly during the twentieth and twenty first centuries.

In the first chapter, John Sorenson examines the ways in which animals have been utilised as vehicles of war. Humans have employed elephants, camels, horses and other species to transport soldiers and materiel during armed conflicts for centuries. More broadly, however, the employment of animals has enabled armies to wage war. Speciesism and dominionism on the part of humans, Sorenson convincingly argues, has led to the perception of animals as 'mere things to be used' (p. 19).

Justin R. Goodman, Shalin G. Gala and Ian E. Smith then focus on the continued use of animals in the training of medical personnel within the United States military. The authors present a reasoned argument as to why the United States military should replace such training programmes with more suitable methods already adopted by other nations.

The third piece, by Ana Paulina Morrón, traces the history of animals as instruments of war in human conflicts from prehistory to the present day. Whilst the bulk of this chapter employs a narrative approach, its conclusion is reminiscent of Sorenson's study and reflects the book's overall activist purpose: 'In the context of war...nonhuman animals have historically been viewed and treated as nothing more than living, breathing instruments...with or against the nonhuman animal's will' (p. 70).

Julie Andrzejewski next considers the 'invisibilization and oppression of animals' in war (p. 73). Andrzejewski rightly points out that the impact of war on animals is seldom mentioned in the media and often accepted by humans as 'collateral damage' (p. 73). Whilst this chapter brings to light significant ethical issues concerning animals, the author acknowledges that a substantial part of the study relies on the 'use of our imaginations to consider the consequences of such weapons and policies on animals where specific evidence is either missing altogether or sketchy' (p. 74). Laden with emotionally charged rhetoric, this chapter concludes with an appeal to end 'the continued assault of human domination' and calls for an 'immediate and concerted activist focus to defund militaries' (p. 99).

In the fifth chapter, Rajmohan Ramanathapillai traces the tumultuous relationship between humans and animals. Ramanathapillai identifies five key stages within the

human-nonhuman animal relationship, beginning with the belief among ancient civilisations that animals possessed supernatural powers and were to be revered as preeminent beings and eventually reaching the fifth stage, during which animals and ecosystems are adversely affected through guerrilla operations. In doing so, Ramanathapillai makes a compelling argument that animals have been 'devalued from sacred status to exploited lives' (p. 101).

Finally, Bill Hamilton and Elliot M. Katz consider the current and potential uses of animals by the world's militaries, with particular emphasis on the United States. The United States military has recently introduced new projects involving animals, including the use of cyborg insects for reconnaissance operations and the employment of dolphins to locate naval mines and attack enemy divers. The authors contend that recent military and scientific research suggest that humans may further genetically alter or otherwise 'repurpose animals' for use in war, leading to a 'military weaponization of animals' (pp. 125-126).

Animals in War concludes with an imploration to 'end wars among people, violence toward the Earth and nonhuman animals' (pp. 143-144). Whilst this study serves its activist purpose, readers in search of a more balanced historical account of the use of animals in war may also feel a need to look elsewhere.

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