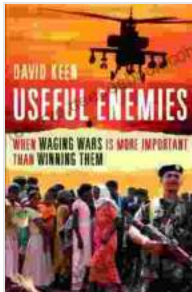# When Waging Wars Is More Important Than Winning Them: A Historical Perspective

Useful Enemies: When Waging Wars Is More Important Than Winning Them by David Keen

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language	: English
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Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
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Throughout history, wars have been fought for a variety of reasons, some more noble than others. In some cases, the goal of war has been to achieve a specific political or territorial objective, while in other cases, the goal has been simply to inflict damage on the enemy. In this article, we will explore the complex relationship between waging wars and winning them, and we will argue that in some cases, it may be more important to wage a war than to win it.

The Causes of War

There are many different factors that can lead to war. Some of the most common causes of war include:

- **Territorial disputes**: Wars have often been fought over territory, as countries have sought to expand their borders or gain control of

strategically important locations.

- **Political differences**: Wars can also be caused by political differences, as countries with different ideologies or governments clash over their beliefs and values.

- **Economic competition**: Wars can also be caused by economic competition, as countries compete for resources or markets.

- **Religious differences**: Wars have also been fought over religious differences, as people of different faiths have clashed over their beliefs and practices.

The Costs of War

Wars can have a devastating impact on both the victors and the vanquished. The human cost of war is often immense, as millions of people have been killed, injured, or displaced as a result of armed conflict. Wars can also have a significant economic impact, as they can lead to the destruction of infrastructure, the loss of jobs, and the disruption of trade.

The Benefits of War

Despite the high costs of war, there can also be some benefits to waging war. In some cases, wars can lead to the resolution of political disputes, the liberation of oppressed peoples, or the advancement of human rights. Wars can also lead to technological innovation and the development of new weapons and strategies.
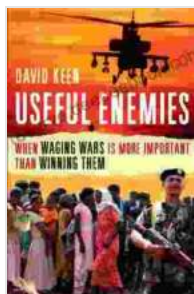
The Importance of Waging Wars

In some cases, it may be more important to wage a war than to win it. This is because wars can serve a variety of purposes, even if they do not result

in a clear victory. For example, wars can be used to:

- **Deter aggression**: Wars can be used to deter aggression from other countries. By demonstrating their willingness to fight, countries can make it clear that they will not tolerate attacks on their sovereignty or their interests.

- **Send a message**: Wars can also be used to send a message to other countries. By waging war, countries can show that they are serious about their demands or that they are willing to fight for their beliefs.

- **Build national unity**: Wars can also be used to build national unity. By fighting a common enemy, people can come together and forget their differences. Wars can also help to create a sense of national pride and identity.

The decision to wage war is a complex one. There are many factors to consider, and there is no easy answer. However, it is important to remember that wars can serve a variety of purposes, even if they do not result in a clear victory. In some cases, it may be more important to wage a war than to win it.

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