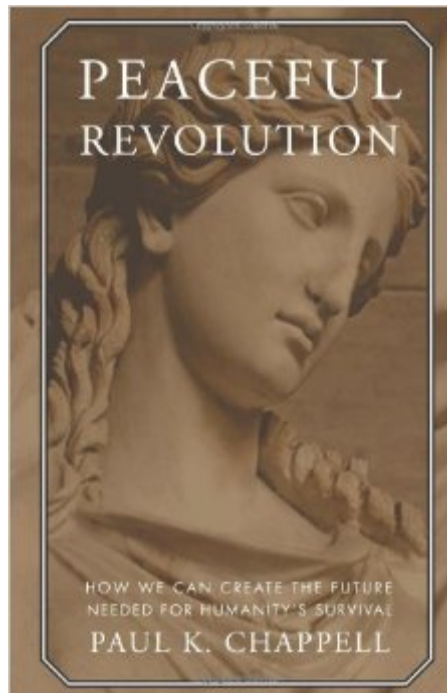


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Peaceful Revolution: How We Can Create The Future Needed For Humanity's Survival



Synopsis

If you think world peace is a naive concept, Paul K. Chappell's very existence will give you pause. It's not enough to say that Chappell is "a West Point graduate and Iraq War veteran" is a soldier turned peace leader. Experiencing a traumatic upbringing and growing up mixed race in Alabama, he's a young man forged by violence, rage, and racism into a living weapon for peace. By unlocking the mysteries of human nature, he shows how the muscles of hope, empathy, appreciation, conscience, reason, discipline, and curiosity give us the power to end the wars between countries, our ongoing war with nature, and the war in our hearts.

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Customer Reviews

"All the missiles and bombs in the world cannot save humanity in the 21st Century." - Paul Chappell
"Revolution" was a bit of a revelation for me. Perhaps not all readers will be as easily convinced, but Chappell truly persuaded me that no one (aside from a psychopath) is a lost cause--not even those shaped by violence and rage who believe that war (in all its forms) is inevitable. Chappell is himself proof of this thesis. As an abused, mixed-race child, he grew up believing violence is part of being human, and he joined the Army thinking war was a necessary means of resolving conflicts. Now he's dedicated his life to waging peace. At first glance, it seems unlikely that a West Point graduate and Iraq War vet would write a book about peace, but it's precisely this experience that uniquely qualifies Chappell to do so. This isn't naïf, hippie stuff, but the work of a highly disciplined soldier grappling with the reality of war. Using the excellent education he obtained at West Point, Chappell makes a compelling case for the possibility of peace. He quotes other famous military men, such as Smedley Butler and Ike Eisenhower, to

support his view. But his own words are just as persuasive: "We must use reason to question and refute the myths that keep the war machine running. When people believe the myth that we are naturally violent, peace is viewed as a naïf dream and war seems inevitable. Reason tells us that this could not be further from the truth." His prose is also often quite beautiful. In this passage, his unit is carefully picking its way through a ravaged neighborhood in Baghdad: "As the sun bled through cracked walls, I felt like I was walking through a museum where every piece of debris testified to our ability to summon death. It seemed like an instant frozen in time--the decisive moment when a new war began and the world would never be the same." Chappell's prose is simple, but his arguments are not simplistic. He talks about how discipline is required in order to successfully wage peace and what inner attitudes need to be nurtured in a soldier for peace--about the difference between appreciation and satiation and sacrifice versus servitude. The "Me First" attitude that permeates our culture confuses these things; Chappell's book is the antidote. Chappell invites us to be good Americans, but also citizens of the world--a world whose very existence is threatened by our unthinking acts of violence. His message is ultimately one of hope: we can save ourselves, our planet, and those we love, not by waging war, but by waging peace. By the time you finish his book, you'll believe it's the most important work any of us can do.

I had edited one of Paul's previous books, *Will War Ever End?* and was already impressed with his thought as well as his feelings about waging peace instead of war, but *Peaceful Revolution* really puts all the layers on this beautiful painting of a life transformed from violence to a deep mission of world peace. I had the distinct honor of indexing *Peaceful Revolution* and it was one of the most inspiring books I've had to read for my work. Also, Paul is an extremely cogent and meticulous writer, which made the indexing process really fun. Paul comes from a family life where his father, a Korean War and Vietnam War veteran, was plagued by nightmares from those experiences, and unfortunately transferred that violence onto his family when the nightmares consumed him. In addition to learning about how the violence of war can destroy the mind, Paul also lived with the challenge of growing up in Alabama part white, part black, part Korean. Although times have changed since his father's time prior to the civil rights movement, social attitudes take many years to shift, so even though Paul is only in his 30s, he dealt with his share of prejudice and ridicule and the desire to hide his ethnic origins. His obsession with finding our underlying reasons for and a solution to war actually took him into one, in Iraq. After going to West Point, Paul deployed to Iraq and saw the impact of war first hand on both his army comrades and the civilian populace. *Peaceful Revolution* is the latest in a series of books (preceded by *Will War Ever End?* and *The End of War*)

that have developed Paul's thought on the basic nature of humans (non-violent, actually), the reasons we get into wars, and the ways we can get out of the mentalities that lead us there. Paul's mind is so clear and his reasoning so cogent that anyone who reads his story will be alternately moved by his personal journey and inspired a) to believe that humanity can be peaceful, and b) that it starts with all of us letting go of the mental contortions that lead to fear of the stranger and then hatred of that unknown. And, OK, I also cried, and laughed, more than once. So, not only a great mission clearly outlined, but but a great story. And don't be surprised if you end up being part of the new peace movement. The world is definitely going to be a better place with Paul K. Chappell in it. He deserves your serious attention.

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