

The war you don't see

Director: John Pilger & Alan Lowery
2010 (97')



“What is the role of the media in rapacious wars like Iraq and Afghanistan? Why do so many journalists beat the drums of war and not challenge the spin and lies of governments? And how are the crimes of war reported and justified when they are our crimes?”.

These are the questions that John Pilger says his film tries to answer. He says it is “a film about truth and justice”.

The War You Don't See is an uncompromising documentary by an independent documentary maker. It is a revealing and shocking film that offers an insight into how the media creates the propaganda for the governments it should be investigating.

Vocabulary and expressions:

Rapacious: Extremely greedy; predatory

Light 'em all up!: Shoot and kill all of them!

Embedding (to embed / to be embedded): Embedding is when a journalist accompanies and reports from within a military group

Shock and Awe: A military doctrine in which the enemy is attacked with massive and overwhelming force to make it lose its will to fight

Stenographer: A person employed to take and transcribe dictation

Toll: Cost; price paid

Death toll: The number of lives lost in, e.g., a battle or war

A free-fire zone: A battle area or combat zone in which no restrictions are placed on the use of arms or explosives

White phosphorous: A substance which burns fiercely and one used as a weapon in order to cause severe burns and death

To hoodwink sb: To fool or trick sb; to make sb believe something that is not true

To be taken in: To be fooled or hoodwinked

Collateral damage: A term used by the military for civilians killed during a bombing or other military action

Military-industrial complex: A term used to refer to the policy and monetary relationships that exists between governments, the military and arms manufacturers

Smear: An unpleasant and untrue rumour or accusation that is intended to damage someone's reputation

Whistleblower: A person who tells the public or authorities that the organisation they are working for is acting illegally or immorally

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