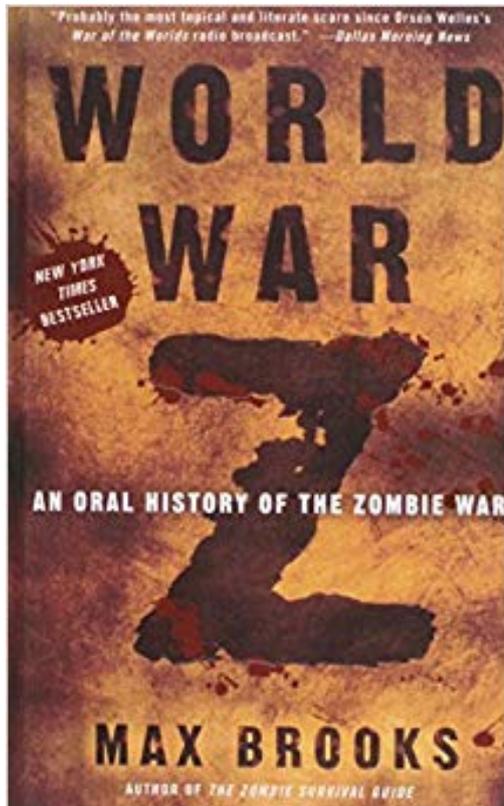


World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War *by* Max Brooks



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Reviews of the **World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War** *by* Max Brooks

Direbringer

I got this book to prepare for an end-of-the-world class in my Mythology course, despite not being much of a zombie fan, but ended up loving it. This book is nothing at all like the movie, and that's a good thing. As others have commented, it's told as individual stories told years after the events, and the characterization, and the thought about military, medical, and social implications are all compelling. There is some unexpected interweaving of stories as well. The narrators are from different places, professions, perspectives, and lifestyles, and the zombies are more like the zombies we know and sorta love since Night of the Living Dead. Definitely for the intelligent zombie fans, in particular in offering strategic ideas to those who, like my daughter, keep plywood, hammer and nails handy in case it becomes necessary to board up our windows when the zombies come.

Eta

Really enjoyed this book! I had seen the movie and enjoyed it but left with lots of questions. I was intrigued with the more mundane type of questions about a world with such zombies. How did things get this bad initially? How did people survive? I wanted to know more of the surrounding universe to a degree and this book delivered.

It is not at all like the movie with a main character on some quest to save the world. It follows many different groups and people as they struggle with the outbreak of the global pandemic. It can be hard to follow sometimes with so many different people and situations going on but it is quite interesting. It presents a great picture of so many different countries and groups and their experiences combating or losing to the zombies. It is an amazing change of pace from what you would see as a traditional zombie/pandemic/world-ending event book. You get a sense of all the struggles and hard decisions that such an event would bring about. It's not some super hero or special agent saving the world. It's about regularly people struggling to survive and society coming together to combat the greatest enemy humanity has ever known.

Yozshujind

I have to start by admitting it was difficult for me to get into this book at first but I'm so happy I stuck with it for a few stories. It's very different to me to begin in the middle of a story that the storyteller knows and the reader doesn't, but after a few entries it is so compelling to find out the history of the war from so many perspectives at so many points in time. The author does an amazing job at bringing a believable voice to narrators from all places, perspectives and walks of life. Some stories are stronger than others but none were boring to me. Some stories were so powerful and I imagine individual readers will identify and attach to each story differently. I really think there is something here for everyone. Although it begins with a story of "patient zero" the book is not on an entirely linear time table so be prepared to jump around in the history of the war. The author creates such a believable wartime picture through the people you get to meet and the details that it feels very real despite its premise. I especially liked experiencing the details of each story through the storyteller. You see each situation through their education level, job, age, life experience, prejudices, strengths and geography which keeps the book fresh throughout. A note about the film, it's not really a true adaptation at all, it's a fairly run of the mill zombie popcorn film. If you love the book, maybe don't take your expectations from the book into the movie and it may still be a fun watch but it does not have the power and interest of the book by a long shot. It mainly just shares a title and a skeleton of the story, kind of like reading *The Serpent and the Rainbow* and then seeing the movie by the same name. I would love to see *World War Z* made into a TV mini series and faithfully adapted, with each episode introduced at the start of the person being interviewed and showing their own personal story.

Malarad

This was an interesting, fairly entertaining read. The concept was clever, it was set up as an "oral history" of a great zombie war that almost wiped out the human race. Short "interviews" built the story from how the war started and what happened during in various countries at various times. The authors used this brief interview format to introduce a range of characters, many of who can be readily mapped onto current political figures and celebrities. The reason I give it only 3 stars is because I ended up thinking it sort ran out of gas about 2/3 of the way through. I was ready for it to be over, the stories got a little less interesting and, frankly at times simply boring. Edited down it would have been stronger.

Shak

The movie was so disappointing compared to the book. I read the book and then listened to the audiobook version as well. Mark Hammil is great on that. This book really does a great job telling a complete story from the perspective of different narrators. I think this is the best zombie book I have read and lament the fact the movie pales in comparison. Pick this up if you aren't burn out on zombies by this point in the millennium

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