

John Quigley, *The Ruses for War*

Prashant Kumar Singh*

John Quigley, *The Ruses for War: American Interventionism since World War II*, 2008 (First Indian Edition), Prometheus Books, New York

Though we hear a lot about Islam phobia and xenophobia in popular and political parlance in America, the fact remains that the us has a long and rich tradition of critical study and independent thinking. American foreign policy discourse does not constitute any exception to this tradition. The legendary thinker Noam Chomsky has constantly been questioning motives of American foreign policy and indicting it for many misdemeanors, which, he claims, has committed in the name of containment of communists or war on terror.

John Quigley's *The Ruses for War: American Interventionism*. Since World War II also represents this category of American thinkers and academicians, which does not accept official American justifications for going to wars on face value. He has asserted that since the Second World War, no American president has told the public the complete truth about the need of going to war. The American public has always been rendered only half-truths. This book explores about 30 different episodes of international politics in which America has carried out military actions abroad starting from Korean War in early 1950s to Iraq or Gulf War II in 2003. These episodes are divided in to two time periods: during the Cold War and Post-Cold War. In fact, this book was first published in 1992. Then, it covered the episodes which had taken place by that time or during the Cold War. But there was no let up seen in American interventionism even after the demise of the USSR. New ruses have been invented and implemented in the Post-Cold War period and American interventionism continues. Therefore, he has brought out this second edition, which covers the episodes of the Post-Cold War period.

The author has highlighted how presidents have extracted public consent for their military actions abroad by manipulating media which is one of the most important links between presidents' administrations and public at large.

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The basic argument of this book is that the citizens of a democracy cannot allow its president to deceive them. Military actions cannot be away from public scrutiny. Presidents must go for wars only after informing people actual and true reasons, because soldiers have to sacrifice their limbs and lives to make their pretensions and misdemeanors appear justified.

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