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Anatomy of Courage: The Classic Study of the Soldier's Struggle Against Fear

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"attempt to escape." "Name, rank, . . ." are passed by; he freely wrote a "truthful" biography and provided military information "they already had." How to apply it? To resist most of all is to communicate at all costs. Once ordered to cease communicating, Brace chose instead to "disobey" and thereby to violate the "obey" section of the code. Escape was almost as non-negotiable. His four early attempts absorbed him and as late as 1971 he was preparing to escape because "the Code said" it was a POW duty. (John Drameis's *Code of Honor* is the *locus classicus* for this view.) Yet after learning of Nixon's timetable for ending U.S. participation in the war, Brace "scotched [his] plan" partly because it was "unnecessary."

Tough issues, new facts and perspectives, and as Senator McCain tells us, "a timeless account of courage"—all here in this slender volume.

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Moran, Lord. *Anatomy of Courage: The Classic Study of the Soldier's Struggle Against Fear*. Garden City Park, N.Y.: Avery, 1987. 202pp. \$9.95

"Courage equates with willpower, of which no man has an unlimited stock. . . . Men wear out in war like clothes." Based upon diaries kept while serving in heavily bombarded and gas-laden trenches in World War I between 1914 and 1917, incorporating personal observations of the Royal Navy and Royal Air

Force in World War II as well, this classic essay by Lord Moran studies men under the stress of war. The author, a veteran physician of both world wars and physician to Sir Winston Churchill, reminds us that "the morale of all armies broke sooner or later."

To Lord Moran, a man's courage is his capital, and he is always spending. The call on the bank might be only the daily drain of the trenches, incessant watch rotations in a destroyer in northern seas in wintertime, or repeated high-stress bombing missions. Alternatively, there may be a sudden major expenditure which threatens to "close his account." When his capital is depleted, he is finished!

Although a man's will may be almost totally destroyed by intensive shelling, heavy bombing or a bloody battle, it may be more slowly and insidiously depleted. Monotony, exposure, the loss of support from stronger comrades on whom he has come to depend, physical exhaustion, or a wrong attitude to either danger, casualties, war, or to death itself, all may dissipate a man's willpower.

Lord Moran attempts to address the question of how courage is born and how it is sustained in a modern army of free people. The major sections of this treatise deal with fundamental issues: "The Discovery of Fear," including subsections exploring how imagination helps or destroys some men, the meaning of cowardice, the birth of fear, and the influence of shifting moods (includ-

ing the author's) in combat; "How Courage is Spent in War"; and a discourse on "The Care and Management of Fear."

The author suggests that there are four degrees of courage, and four orders of men measured by that standard: men who did not feel fear; men who felt fear but did not show it; men who felt fear *and* showed it, but did their job; and men who felt fear, showed it and shirked. He notes that few men spent their trench lives with their feet firmly planted on one rung of this ladder. The story of modern war is concerned with the striving of men eroded by fear, attempting to maintain a precarious footing on the upper rungs of this ladder.

Courage, character, leadership and fortitude in war are important. Ultimately, however, it is the nation's attitude towards its military that is paramount. Is the citizen full of pride and "hot loyalty" when he either joins or is conscripted into the armed services? Does it give him prestige among his fellow countrymen to be seen in uniform? The answers to these questions may ultimately imprint on his courageous instincts, and may well determine the victory or defeat of a nation in time of war.

This is not a handy reference guide for those solely interested in augmenting leadership skills. Rather, it is only for those with requisite degrees of sensitivity, sympathy and empathy. It is for those who seek greater insight into the sublime complexities of human emotion

under the duress of wartime passage through the real-time equivalent of the biblical "Valley of the Shadow of Death."

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Chambers, John Whiteclay II. *To Raise an Army: The Draft Comes to Modern America*. New York: The Free Press, 1987. 386pp. \$24.95

This is an extremely interesting and successful book when it does not vary from its subject. Almost entirely about the advent of conscription in World War I, two short chapters in the beginning cover 1907-1914, and two short chapters at the end cover 1918-1988. The remaining 165 pages discuss 1914-1918. Indeed, Professor Chambers prefigures this concentration in his preface, which concludes: "It was in World War I that the modern draft first came to America."

Chambers' description of the advent of the draft of 1917 is fascinating. It casts useful light on the history of the prewar period, but it also contains much to help the reader understand present attitudes toward the draft and national service in American society. Before World War I, public attitudes in the United States were largely conditioned by recollection of the Civil War draft, with its infamous excesses and evasions. Furthermore, powerful groups, like the National Guard Association (NGA), opposed con-