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## The Hidden Structure of Violence: Who Benefits from Global Violence and War

*Marc Pilisuk, Jennifer Achord Rountree*

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Acts of violence assume many forms: they may travel by the arc of a guided missile or in the language of an economic policy, and they may leave behind a smoldering village or a starved child. The all-pervasiveness of violence makes it seem like an unavoidable, and ultimately incomprehensible, aspect of the modern world. But, in this detailed and expansive book, Marc Pilisuk and Jen Rountree demonstrate otherwise. Widespread violence, they argue, is in fact an expression of the underlying social order, and whether it is carried out by military forces or by patterns of investment, the aim is to strengthen that order for the benefit of the powerful. *The Hidden Structure of Violence* marshals vast amounts of evidence to examine the costs of direct violence, including military preparedness and the social reverberations of war, alongside the costs of structural violence, expressed as poverty and chronic illness. It also documents the relatively small number of people and corporations responsible for facilitating the violent status quo, whether by setting the range of permissible discussion or benefiting directly as financiers and manufacturers. The result is a stunning indictment of our violent world and a powerful critique of the ways through which violence is reproduced on a daily basis, whether at the highest levels of the state or in the deepest recesses of the mind.

"An encyclopedic and yet highly focused analysis of the causes and consequences of violence and wars - This is a sober book that nonetheless leaves us with hope for future generations." - G. William Domhoff, author, *Who Rules America?* "One of the most comprehensive - and programmatic - discussions of the sources and nature of global violence in years." - Tom Hayden, author, *Inspiring Participatory Democracy*