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*Laura Sjoberg*

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**Laura Sjoberg : Gender, War, and Conflict (Gender and Global Politics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gender, War, and Conflict (Gender and Global Politics):

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you should look elsewhere. If you want to learn that the real reason that countries go to war is because they take on gender roles, with poor justification for this claim, this book is for you.

From Pakistan to Chechnya, Sri Lanka to Canada, pioneering women are taking their places in formal and informal military structures previously reserved for, and assumed appropriate only for men. Women have fought in wars, either as women or covertly dressed as men, throughout the history of warfare, but only recently have they been allowed to join state militaries, insurgent groups, and terrorist organizations in unprecedented numbers. This begs the question - how useful are traditional gendered categories in understanding the dynamics of war and conflict? And why are our stories of gender roles in war typically so narrow? Who benefits from them? In this illuminating book, Laura Sjoberg explores how gender matters in war-making and war-fighting today. Drawing on a rich range of examples from conflicts around the world, she shows that both women and men play many more diverse roles in wars than either media or scholarly accounts convey. Gender, she argues, can be found at every turn in the practice of war; it is crucial to understanding not only what war is, but equally how it is caused, fought and experienced. With end of chapter questions for discussion and guides to further reading, this book provides the perfect introduction for students keen to understand the multi-faceted role of gender in warfare. *Gender, War and Conflict* will challenge and change the way we think about war and conflict in the modern world.

"Laura Sjoberg has written a valuable, teachable and up-to-the-minute gender-smart book about war. With its mix of gritty case studies and Big Questions, *Gender, War and Conflict* offers lucky readers the tools to reassess mainstream International Relations' theories and to start fashioning explanations of their own." Cynthia Enloe, Clark University

"Laura Sjoberg's book is a feminist international relations primer for the real world. She shows that we can't understand - let alone end - wars and conflicts if we don't understand the masculinities and femininities that fuel them. This is the book that everyone - students, academics, and policy-makers - needs to read." Jacqui True, Monash University

About the Author Laura Sjoberg is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Florida.