



In Words and Deeds: Battle Speeches in History (Hardback)

By Richard F. Miller

University Press of New England, United States, 2008. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 157 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Throughout recorded military history, leaders have persuaded men to risk life and limb for God, country, unit, comrades, and families; for plunder, vengeance, glory, a lasting peace, or new conquests. Beginning with the holy wars of the Hebrew Bible and continuing to the present Iraq conflict, one constant motivator of men in war has been the battle speech: the exhortatory words uttered by commanders on the eve of invasions and before, during, after, and between battles. In Greco-Roman times, battle speeches, as recorded (or invented) by historians such as Herodotus, Thucydides, and Livy were considered literary creations of a high order. In the centuries that followed, both biblical and Greco-Roman narratives established the templates that have influenced military exhortations to the present day. Emotions inspired by the battle speech might be universal, but conceptions of God, the rules of war, and the proper objects of warfare have evolved to reflect changes in cultural norms, military organization, and technology. Richard F. Miller offers the first systemic classification of battle speeches while exploring how their contents have changed over time....

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