

**Riley, Robin L., Chandra Talpade Mohanty and Minnie Bruce Pratt.**  
*Feminism and War: Confronting US Imperialism.* Zed Books: London and New York, 2008. Pp. 288. \$34 (paperback).  
ISBN 978-1848130197

**Reviewer: Maïke Garland<sup>1</sup>**

*[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2009 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

Last winter I saw Lana Joffrey perform parts of Heather Raffo’s stunning and heartbreaking “Nine Parts of Desire”. The one-woman play gives us an intimate look at nine vastly different Iraqi women, brilliantly and painfully linking the body count and the narratives of the Iraqi people’s pain and suffering caused by the war. Raffo and Joffrey managed to break out of a binary script by doing narrative monologues from different perspectives.

Similarly, this anthology of twenty-one essays offers solid arguments against the pro-war claim that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are helpful to women and feminist in their support of women, and challenges us to rupture the binary scripts, master narratives and compassion fatigue dominating the mainstream discourse. I found the analysis of the current wars and the militarization of our society to be the most pressing and significant aspects of the book, especially as the analysis was put in the context of world economic globalization.

The contributors present intelligent and thought provoking analysis of the US wars from various feminist perspectives. As noted in the introduction, “War is examined [...] in multiple ways – as direct military intervention and occupation, as the structuring and restructuring of legal and cultural systems, as the creation of economic foreign policy initiatives, and as a tool and technique to expand the reach of imperialism”. This book is an invaluable resource for advocates of radical feminist politics, political activists, academics, journalists and anyone willing to challenge their thoughts and actions—or lack thereof—in this time of war.

---

<sup>1</sup> **Maïke Garland** teaches at Goddard College, a progressive educational institution, in Vermont.