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Reviewer: Neema Caughran¹

Most of us are familiar with anthropology’s deadly origin and history as the research arm of the colonial empires and, knowingly or not, contributing to the genocide/ethnocide of first nations all over the world. To my field’s credit, we have begun to face our responsibility for the uses of our research. Many assume that we are freed from the stigma if we follow the guidelines for ethical research that have come out of the Nuremberg Trials, national and local academic institutional review boards, and our own professional organizations (like those of the American Anthropologist Association.) I was smug in my knowledge of the possible abuses of ethnographic research and my commitment to “do no harm”. I lost the smugness very quickly in the introduction to this book when Price points out that World War I was considered the Chemists’ War, World War II, the Physicists’ War, and the current wars – The Anthropologists’ War.

The book is divided into three parts: 1.) “Politics, Ethics, and the Military Intelligence Complex’s Quiet Return to Campus,” 2.) “Manuals: Deconstructing the Texts of Cultural Warfare” (a view from inside), and 3.) “Counterinsurgency Theories, Fantasies, and Harsh Realities.” While the title of Part 1 may and should ring all of our alarm systems, I will start with the later Manuals and the Human Terrain System and move into the current invasion of college campuses by the CIA and their ilk.

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