

Cynthia Enloe. *Nimo's War, Emma's War: Making Feminist Sense of the Iraq War*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010. Pp. 320. \$24.95 (paper). ISBN 978-0-520-26078-8

Reviewer: Cathlyn Mariscotti¹

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Cynthia Enloe continues her work on exploring the subject of women and militarism in her book *Nimo's War, Emma's War: Making Feminist Sense of the Iraq War*. Focusing on eight women, four from Iraq and four from the United States, she examines their personal narratives as preludes to her analysis of wider issues involving women and war. Among the Iraqi women, Enloe introduces the reader to Nimo, an owner of a beauty parlor in the "Green Zone," Maha, a displaced widow with four children, Safah, a teenager who survived the US Marines' attack on innocent civilians in Haditha in 2005, and Shatha, a Shi'a activist who was elected to the Iraqi parliament. The American women whose tales Enloe chose to include in the book include Emma, a mother of a son in the military, Danielle, a university graduate and star basketball player who lost her arm while serving as an MP in Iraq, Kim, the wife of a National Guardsman who was sent to Iraq, and Charlene, the mother of a soldier who lost his leg to an IED (improvised explosive device).

Employing real women's stories of their experience with militarism, Enloe is able to plumb the depths of the issues surrounding women and war. In Iraq, she rightly explores the subject of militias generating income by forcing Iraqi women into prostitution. Enloe also analyzes the role of rape in war and attempts to draw global comparisons with similar situations in Rwanda, Bosnia and other areas affected by militarism. Focusing on issues that are often ignored, she reminds the reader of the impact on girls and women of the dislocation that war causes, especially with respect to girls' socialization, access to education and employment, and secular rights that existed before the invasion. Her examination of

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