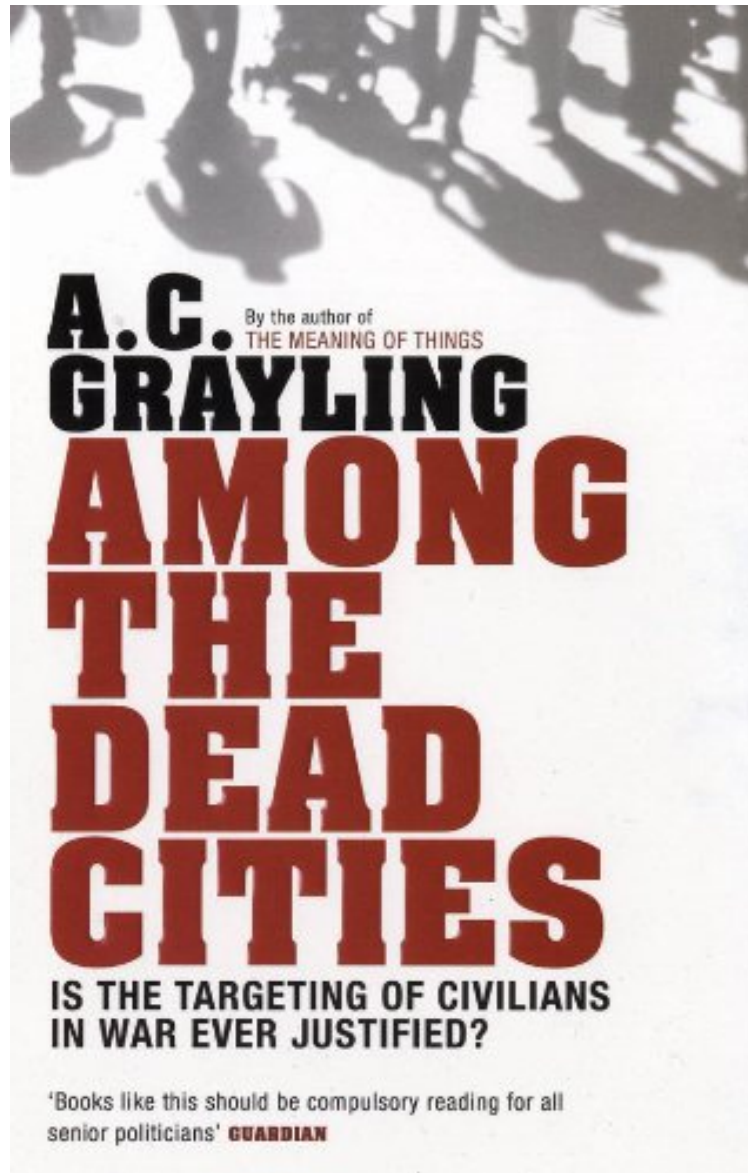


(Free pdf) Among the Dead Cities: Is the Targeting of Civilians in War Ever Justified?

Among the Dead Cities: Is the Targeting of Civilians in War Ever Justified?

Von A. C. Grayling

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Von A. C. Grayling : Among the Dead Cities: Is the Targeting of Civilians in War Ever Justified? before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Among the Dead Cities: Is the Targeting of Civilians in War Ever Justified?:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen7 von 7 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Allied WWII air warfare reconsidered from post 9-11 point of viewVon Dominic BerlemannIt's almost impossible to reevaluate the most decisive events of WWII without getting emotionally overexcited in one way or the other. The issues at stake are complex and demand the ability to observe developments from several perspectives simultaneously. Grayling's book is refreshingly clear and he doesn't resort to the outbursts of rage shown particularly by people such as German historian Joerg Friedrich. The message is: although the Allied bombing campaigns against the civilian population of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan were juridically no war crimes and took place in the wider context of a just war against Hitler's bestial tyranny and Japan's cruel expansionism, they were morally unacceptable since they amounted to sheer instruments of terror with little (if any) real military effect. Grayling especially condemns Bomber Command's nighttime area bombing of German cities in the final stages of the war when, according to Grayling, the outcome of this uniquely brutal global conflict was no longer in doubt. Yet he also makes crystal-clear that he doesn't want to diminish Allied aircrews' massive and brave contribution to overthrowing fascism. The alternative for Bomber Harris' strategy of bombing entire cities to rubble no matter how many civilian lives would be lost would have been to follow the American example of attacking infrastructure serving a highly military purpose (which the USAAF did in day-time raids predominantly). This approach, Grayling argues, would not only have exerted the same strain on Nazi Germany's Luftwaffe to align many of its resources to defending the Reich as the actual campaign did, but it would have also accelerated the downfall of the military-industrial complex providing the Wehrmacht with the means of waging war. Therefore, the war could have been shortened significantly and many lives on all sides could have been saved - and some rather unique architecture as well.Grayling's book is an interesting and compelling read, his sense of fairness is almost proverbially English and the central thesis of the book certainly deserves closer inspection, especially in light of the current debate on the war on terror (which itself generates terror amongst ordinary people whose involvement in terrorism is at least uncertain). However, he will certainly not convince all the experts, especially the military historians, who tend to reduce historic events just to the actual battle action.1 von 9 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. War is HELL Hindsight Proves Just That Fact...Von GRH "Ex WHA Jet"One needs no further proof that we live in a free and democratic society than the fact that books such as this one are readily available.That the victorious would be criticized for their actions decades later would never have happened had the AXIS powers prevailed in World War 2.It is startling to note that Germany itself was virtually wiped off the face of the planet; were the actions of the Allied powers justified? No. But consider that just a few years later, the same foe that defeated Germany would save the nation; witness the Berlin Airlift. Again, one doubts that the NAZIS nor Imperial Japan would have shown any such humanity to the nations they would have been in control of had they won the war

KurzbeschreibungBritain and the USA carried out a massive bombing offensive against the cities of Germany and Japan in the course of the Second World War, which ended with the destruction of Hamburg, Dresden, Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Was the bombing of civilian targets justified by the necessities of war? Or was it, in fact, a crime against humanity? How should we, the descendants of the Allies who won the victory in that war, reply to the moral challenge of the descendants of those whose cities were targeted? A.C. Grayling looks at the stands people took, both for and against, and crucially asks what are the lessons that we can learn for today about how people should behave in a world of tension and moral confusion, of terrorism and fragile democracies. Among the Dead Cities is both a lucid and revealing work of modern history and an investigation of conscience into one of the last remaining controversies of that time.