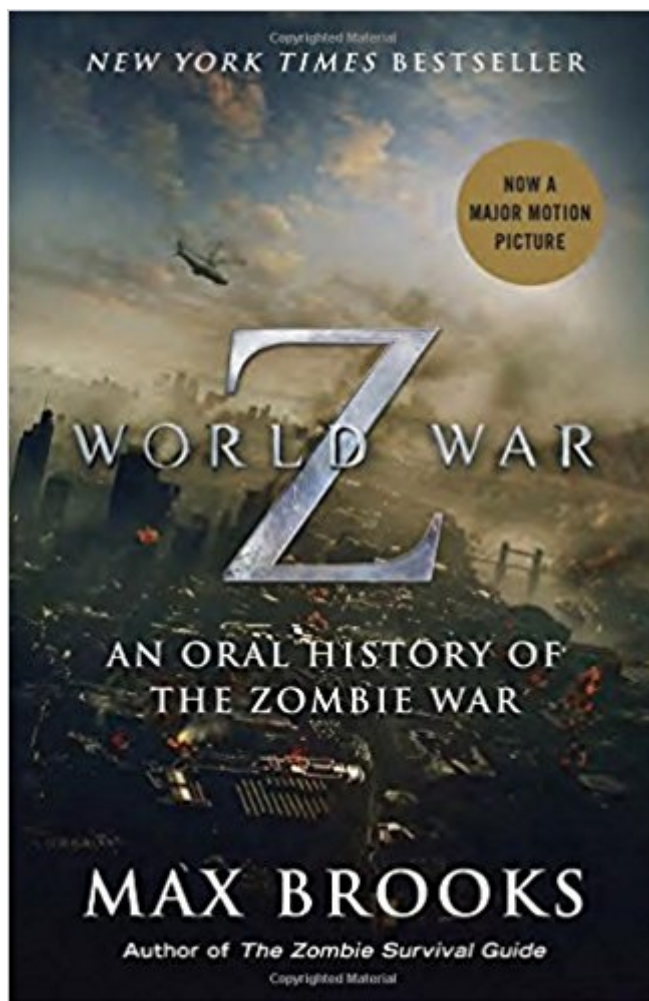


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# World War Z (Movie Tie-In Edition): An Oral History Of The Zombie War



## Synopsis

We survived the zombie apocalypse, but how many of us are still haunted by that terrible time? We have (temporarily?) defeated the living dead, but at what cost? Told in the haunting and riveting voices of the men and women who witnessed the horror firsthand, *World War Z*, a #1 New York Times bestseller and the basis for the blockbuster movie, is the only record of the plague years.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In the wake of the great zombie war, Brooks's fictional alter ego travels around the world to ask tough questions of individuals and leaders about their experience and actions before, during and after the undead menace decimated the human population. Brooks remarkably identifies and articulates the nuances and unconsidered realities of what a zombie war would look like. This intriguing "oral history" stands apart from his previous zombie-related book, *The Zombie Survival Guide*, as Brooks uses the postwar culture here to provide political and social commentary on a wide range of real-life individuals and institutions. An all-star cast including Alan Alda, Mark Hamill, Jürgen Prochnow, Henry Rollins, John Turturro, Rob and Carl Reiner, and many others deliver their parts with such fervor and intensity that listeners cannot help but empathize with these characters. Max Brooks acts as the interviewer, providing an inquisitive but stagnant demeanor. The abridgment keeps the story tight but struggles with the interviewer's narration during interviews. When Brooks interrupts characters to indicate that the person rolled his eyes or appeared

apprehensive, his comments are often moot because the performers are already portraying such body language with their tone. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

"The Crisis" nearly wiped out humanity. Brooks (son of Mel Brooks and author of *The Zombie Survival Guide*, 2003) has taken it upon himself to document the "first hand" experiences and testimonies of those lucky to survive 10 years after the fictitious zombie war. Like a horror fan's version of Studs Terkel's *The Good War* (1984), the "historical account" format gives Brooks room to explore the zombie plague from numerous different views and characters. In a deadpan voice, Brooks exhaustively details zombie incidents from isolated attacks to full-scale military combat: "what if the enemy can't be shocked and awed? Not just won't, but biologically can't!" With the exception of a weak BAT-21 story in the second act, the "interviews" and personal accounts capture the universal fear of the collapse of society--a living nightmare in which anyone can become a mindless, insatiable predator at a moment's notice. Alas, Brad Pitt's production company has purchased the film rights to the book--while it does have a chronological element, it's more similar to a collection of short stories: it would make for an excellent 24-style TV series or an animated serial. Regardless, horror fans won't be disappointed: like George Romero's *Dead* trilogy, *World War Z* is another milestone in the zombie mythos. Carlos Orellana Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Great book about a zombie apocalypse. The different stories and perspectives from different countries really make this book interesting and addicting to read through. If zombie apocalypse movies never made sense to you, this will be a refreshing change of pace. Everything has been well thought out and "documented" in this recount of zombie war (*World War Z*). Don't want to spoil the read, so go grab a copy!

I know you've all heard that before, but in this case it's as true as it could possibly be. This is a funny, clever, thoughtful and intense look at our dystopian zombie future. OK, maybe it's not as likely as some other dystopian future, but when it comes to zombies, you cannot beat this for its insightful assessment of human nature. Plus generally a great read. You know, the movie was fine on it's own as another mostly forgettable zombie excursion but this book is the real deal

Max Brooks knocked it out of the park with this fragmented narrative about the rise and aftermath of

a zombie outbreak, which rapidly spread all over the world. The book gave a very graphic depiction of the effect of a zombie apocalypse. I especially loved the wide range of perspectives and what each character had to say during their interviews with the protagonist. There are so many different characters, each with their own unique story to tell. It was honestly impossible to vividly remember each and every small story within the book, but the fact that it jumped around so much honestly made it easier to read. I'm usually not a huge fan of a fragmented narrative due to the information overload that tends to accompany it, but the thrilling and often graphic nature of each individual story made them all a joy to read. The action and suspense, combined with Max's sense of humor made this one of my favorite books in recent years.

It is hard not to like this book... it is well written, well thought-out and has that rare ability to make extreme fiction seem plausible in the real-world. I read this book right after it came out years ago and have gifted probably a dozen or more copies to friends along with the statement of: "No, really... it isn't some cheesy horror story". But I felt I should re-read it after I gave my wife a copy to read some months back... (by the way, she is VERY anti-horror, anti-science fiction, etc.. so it took some convincing for her to pick it up).....and she ended up loving it! She, (like most of the folks I've given it to), said that she kept wanting to write things down that were in the book because they were so insightful or just plain interesting... (THIS from a cheesy "Zombie Book"?... you're kidding me...). She completely fell into the world that was created by the author with little effort needed to suspend disbelief. Ok... enough of the self-absorbed pontificating... Here is the low down on this book if you are trying to decide to buy it: Just go ahead and buy it. If you are even considering it, you won't be disappointed... and if you are thinking of giving it as a gift to someone that "may" like "that kind of book"... definitely do it... they (and you) will be pleasantly surprised. Oh... and one last thing that I probably don't need to tell you... DON'T judge it by the movie... the movie was "not bad" despite the fact that it was almost totally unrelated to the book... (I know, not much of a surprise there, eh?)... but, as is the norm for blockbusters with costly effects and actors... it was little more than a one-dimensional series of scenes stitched together to create emotional reactions... (which it did fairly well). But, believe me, this book has MUCH more depth in every way possible... characters, plots, supporting science, you name it... (and you won't have the ardent desire to hold down Brad Pitt and wash his hair... (ick)... ;-)

This is the best book that I have read in the last year. The oral history aspect is very hard to do, but, with minor exceptions, Brooks excels at it. And thoroughly enjoyable. It's really not about

zombies...Really. This book is a giant "thought experiment". What would happen if there was a global pandemic in our time? Whether you realize it or not, this book explores immigration, nationalism, nuclear war, nuclear winter, environmental collapse, changes in warfare, capitalism and global economic shifts. It even looks at religion, as Russia turns back to religion and the motherland. All wrapped up in a gripping interview format. It is like the indie documentaries you see on Netflix and Apple TV, only more intense. This book explores immigration in nations completely overwhelmed by refugees, survival, what would we \*really\* do as a last resort? And it also deeply explores what would happen to the US, Russia, France, North Korea, China, Pakistan, India, and even Cuba, which becomes a world power. And Israel, that shuts its border wall and lets no one in. Despite all this it is not preachy. The zombie part is interesting, and has some chilling moments. What would happen to the military if you had an enemy that could not be blasted off the face of the earth with techno weaponry? It returns to a pre-Civil War skirmish line, hand to hand if necessary. The movie is \*not\* like this book, despite the title. You've seen the movie trailers with the Zombies swarming faster and faster. That breaks all of Brooks' rules. They don't do that in this book. So why not five stars? It is really really difficult to present dialog that is unique to every individual. Most fiction authors stray mid-book to where their characters speak in the same voice (Orson Scott Card, for example, does it for most of his books). Brooks for the most part doesn't do this - I only noticed it mildly - once about one third into the book, and then once near the end. Otherwise near perfect characterization and dialog.

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