The blogs of war: Narrating the Afghanistan and Iraq wars


Abstract

The post 2001 'War(s) on Terror' have seen changes to the manner in which war is communicated, and this offers opportunities to those writing the social history of war. These events reflect the contemporary realities of war and communication. Borderlands of scholarship have opened and the community of those at/of war can now be more openly engaged and interrogated by the scholarly community. Past conflicts have been marked by the contest between official government representations of reality and the image presented by the mainstream media. This dual dominance is increasingly challenged by virtual individuals, a challenge that provides scholars fresh space to engage with a community that is too often excluded. Social media offers a remarkable degree of access for scholars to complement official reports and mainstream media accounts of war. This paper explores these areas of scholarly engagement and assesses the development of the new virtual community at war, with an examination of the 2010 case of Richard Strandlof and his fraudulent identity as wounded American war veteran Rick Duncan who was actively opposing war. New media has been used by community activist groups who detect and publicise such impersonations in both Australia and the United States, and in a more prosaic manner by soldiers and their families who just want their voices to be heard.
political parties, and armed and supported by different countries, including Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, as well as the United States, and they gained significantly in power and money during the course of the Afghan-Soviet war. The War on Terrorism has produced casualties in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, Syria, and other Middle Eastern Countries. War casualties War on Terror. What is the real cost of war? On just one day in September 2001, 2,996 people lost their lives when the twin towers fell in New York, at the Pentagon, and on the each of the three hijacked planes. When the leader of Al-Qaeda Osama Bin Laden was killed by U.S. special forces, the war on terror did not subside. In fact, the monetary costs continued each year since then at a steady rate in defense and homeland security spending. In all, the U.S. government has spent more than $7.6 trillion on defense and homeland security since the 9/11 attacks.