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Racket IS A War



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War is a Racket
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As Butler wrote, “For a great many years, as a soldier, I had a suspicion that war was a racket; not until I retired to civil life did I fully realize it. Now that I see international war clouds gathering, as they are today, *I must face it and speak out.*”

emphasis added

His insights are just as important now as they’ve always been.

It’s long past time that we learn from him and the many, many others, from all walks of life, who know that *war won’t improve our lives, it just makes a select few war-mongers richer and more powerful.*

emphasis added

“War is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious. ... the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives.

A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of people. Only a small ‘inside’ group knows what it is about. **It is conducted for the benefit of the very few, at the expense of the very many. Out of war a few people make huge fortunes.**”

Thus begins *War Is a Racket*, written by **Smedley Darlington Butler, published in 1935.**



At the time, Butler was a retired Major General in the US Marine Corps who had spent over 33 years in active military service. When he died in 1940, he was the most highly decorated Marine in history; he received the Medal of Honor twice, plus many other awards.

So he knew what he was talking about.