

WORLD ISSUES

DOCUMENTARY
30 MIN.

VERSIONS

Arabic, English, Spanish:
12 x 30 min.

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This Means War

The face of war is changing. Governments and armies attempt to package it as a legitimate political tool and, as far as is possible, try to portray military campaigns as harmless. Few opportunities remain for journalists to convey an accurate and genuine representation of war and its consequences – with reporters themselves often becoming targets in a conflict. Civilians are only safe as long as this is deemed appropriate. Only sanitized images of war are made public; “clean” and precise strikes using combat drones and intelligent bombs; and those involved are given all the air time they need to justify their military activities. The reality on the ground is very different. Wars continue to inflict great suffering, destruction and death – long after the battles have ceased.

01 The Invisible US Army [VoD](#) [HD](#)

In Uganda, security firms working for the US army recruit former child soldiers. They serve as security personnel during US military operations all over the world, as mercenaries for whom, when things take a turn for the worse, no one accepts responsibility.

02 The War Reporter [HD](#)

Kurt Pelda has reported from the war zones of the world for almost 30 years. This documentary takes a close look at the nature of his work, and explores why he feels compelled to return to the frontline time and time again.

03 Peacekeepers Pose a Threat [VoD](#) [HD](#)

20,000 UN peacekeepers are currently deployed to protect civilians in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. But increasingly the troops themselves pose a threat to local people, with women and girls frequently the target of sex attacks.

04 A Soldier's Grave [HD](#)

Joachim Kozłowski searches old battlefields for the remains of soldiers killed in the Second World War. He works for Germany's war graves commission. He has the remains properly buried and informs any family members. For them, it can mean closure after decades of uncertainty and grief.

05 The Strategy of a Worldwide Presence [VoD](#) [HD](#)

Over the course of the last century the US, like no other global power before it, has spanned the world with a network of military sites – more than 700 facilities in some 40 countries. These bases are impacting upon the lives of millions of people.

06 Sardinia's Deadly Secret [VoD](#) [HD](#)

The largest NATO training facility in Europe is located on the Mediterranean island of Sardinia. The cancer rate among the local population and the incidence of deformities in babies and animals are unusually high here. Many blame the depleted uranium in some of the munitions tested at the site.

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07 **America's Clandestine War in Laos** [HD](#)

During the Vietnam War, the US waged an eight-year bombing campaign in Laos without the rest of the world finding out about it. Using archive footage, some of which has never been shown before, this film relates the story of this secret war.

08 **One Man's Path to War** [HD](#)

Anwar supported the rebels in the Syrian civil war but did not fight. Then he was radicalized by the brutality of the war and the lack of support from abroad. He decided to join an Islamist group and bear arms in the conflict.

09 **Danger Beneath the Seas** [VoD](#) [HD](#)

It is thought that more than a million tonnes of chemical weapons lie on ocean beds around the world. From 1917 to 1970, these deadly munitions were dumped in the sea by armies worldwide. The cases and drums are corroding and releasing highly toxic substances. This poses a huge threat to marine life and human health, with no immediate prospect of a solution.

10 **Congo's Women Take Up Arms** [VoD](#) [HD](#)

It is estimated that 500,000 women have been raped during the 20-year civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, either by marauding gangs or by soldiers. Several hundred women, however, have decided that, rather than remain defenseless, they are going to fight. Some sign up with the army, others join the various rebel groups.

11 **NATO's Lethal Legacy** [VoD](#) [HD](#)

As they pulled out of Afghanistan, NATO-led ISAF troops left behind a dangerous legacy: unexploded bombs. They remain in battle zones, in places hit by airstrikes – and on former training grounds. The live munitions pose a grave threat to local people. NATO is obliged to clear them, but this is happening far too slowly – if at all.

12 **The Deadly Effects of the Gulf Wars** [HD](#)

During the two wars of 1991 and 2003, it's thought that up to 2,000 tons of depleted uranium weapons were deployed in Iraq – although to date no reliable data has been collected on the issue. 300 regions in Iraq are viewed as contaminated and urgently need to be cleared of harmful substances. There has been a huge increase in instances of cancer, stillbirths and congenital deformities in local populations. There are no official studies on the causes of these afflictions, and unofficial studies are not recognized.