

World War Z Study Guide

World War Z by Max Brooks

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Plot Summary

World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War by Max Brooks follows the progression of a fictitious war between zombified humans and the living. The narrator, a fact finder for the Postwar Commission, has compiled numerous interviews over the course of several years and has chosen to place them into a book for future generations to analyze the war. The stories, from all countries and all populations, show the true strength of humankind, and the powerful forces that guide all civilizations.

The story begins with the tales of those who witnessed the first outbreaks of a disease that kills the living, and then reanimates the deceased to form living zombies. The first recorded outbreak occurred in China and spread quickly across the world due to inaccurate information, government cover-ups, illegal smuggling operations, and illegitimacy within the medical community. From irrational military strategy to the marketing of a vaccine known to have no effect, the actions of many entities cause a worldwide outbreak of the disease. As panic spreads across the nations, the citizens of the world attempt to flee the roving zombie masses who threaten their lives, while the military attempts to regain control. The zombies, while slow and lacking even basic intelligence, are nearly invincible, since no modern weapon kills them effectively. The only way to kill a zombie is to destroy the brain. As the military forces attempt to destroy the zombie masses, they learn quickly that without a solid action plan, all of humanity is doomed.

During this time, several experts put forth ideas to stop the zombies, but most are ignored. Finally, a man in South Africa thought to be a monster because of his complete lack of emotion, devises a plan called the Redeker Plan, which systematically lays out a military procedure to protect a few carefully selected populations within a country, and uses the remaining population as human bait. While harsh and inhumane, the solution seems to be the only hope. The stories of military professionals within the novel detail the implementation of the plan in several countries.

For a short time, the world is at a stand still as military and government officials try to keep small areas safe, while the zombies occupy much of the rest of the world. However, within a few months, the world decides to begin taking back their lands, and a full-scale war between zombies and the world military forces ensues. While the military eventually takes back much of the world, the populations across the globe will never be the same.

Told from both first and third person accounts, the story of World War Z is one that shows both sides of war in poignant detail. While political cover-ups and greed within the population serve to speed the spread of infection, the heroism and undying resilience of the human spirit allow civilization to prevail, even in the darkest of times. Although based on a fictitious conflict, World War Z is a novel about the true causes of war, and the extreme measures some will use to overcome adversity, as well as the overwhelming power of the human instinct to survive.



Introduction, Chapter 1

Introduction, Chapter 1 Summary

The believed beginning of World War Z are given by the chairman of the local security council, Kwang Jingshu in an interview in Chongqing in the United Federation of China. Kwang, a physician, tells of his first encounter with the outbreak when he is called to a remote village called "New Dachang." There, he finds ill patients, who have bite marks from a human. The biter, "Patient Zero," is a twelve-year-old boy. He is imprisoned and with numerous wounds, although there is no blood. The boy is cold to the touch with no pulse or heartbeat. He is hostile, and when he struggles against being restrained, he rips his arm entirely from its socket. The boy had been fishing with his father in an area called Three Gorges Reservoir, where something bit him. Military support is sent, but cannot contain the growing epidemic. Shortly, the outbreak had spread beyond China.

In Lhasa, The People's Republic of Tibet, former smuggler Nury Televaldi explains how the outbreak occurred there. The government attempts to stop the smuggling of these individuals through public execution and crackdowns. Air smuggling becomes popular, as very rich clients pay highly for travel to other countries to find a cure. An infected couple flies to Paris, where they check into a hotel, where the man becomes sick. Nury implies this is how the Paris infection began. Nury also tells how captains of ships would either drop the infected all into the ocean or unload them onto an island or coastline. Smugglers help the illness to spread.

Built into the rocks of mountains with retractable staircases, monasteries are virtually inaccessible, providing seemingly perfect security from the zombies. Here the narrator interviews Stanley MacDonald, who tells the story of his first encounter with the undead while involved in a drug interdiction operation for the Third Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Kyrgyzstan. There, his team finds the caves where the criminals had been, but they find blood, bits of brown flesh, and dead pack mules, and inside the caves, they see dead bodies of those caught in their own booby traps. Continuing on, they find a battle site, where armed soldiers had been ripped to pieces, bitten in half, partially eaten, and still clutching weapons. On returning to Canada, the soldiers are told the victims were subjected to "unknown chemical agents" and told they have PTSD.

The narrator arrives in the Amazon Rain Forest in Brazil, at the home of the Yanomami, or "Fierce People," to interview Doctor Fernando Oliveira. Fernando tells how he had been a doctor performing illegal organ transplants for wealthy individuals, including a heart transplant for Herr Muller. Fernando is concerned by Muller's resulting symptoms, but is reassured by Dr. Silva. Later, Fernando is called back to the hospital, where it is reported that Herr Muller flat-lined, but opened his eyes and bit Silva. Muller is crouching over Silva, eating his flesh. Fernando shoots Muller in the head. Fernando notes that that this organ-related spread of the disease is a likely theory to explain the "reanimated" bodies that were never bitten.



The narrator arrives at Bridgetown Harbor in Barbados to interview Jacob Nyathi of the IS (Infinity Ship) Imfingo sailing vessel about his story. Nyathi has been walking home from work when he hears persistent gunfire, smells smoke, then sees a panicked crowd. He tries to find his mother and sisters. He is trampled and sees zombies coming toward him, but manages to escape. He runs again but is shot by police. When he wakes up in Groote Schuur Hospital, he hears people arguing whether the epidemic is rabies or not.

The narrator meets Israeli Intelligence agent Jurgen Warmbrunn at an Ethiopian restaurant in Tel Aviv, Israel. According to Jugen, the government is first alerted to the problem by Taiwanese groups who claim to be having difficulty decoding Russian messages. Jurgen assumes the decoding is incorrect, as it speaks of the dead rising after an outbreak of a disease. Later, he learns the epidemic is real and is spreading rapidly worldwide. The only way to kill them is by destroying the head. He and Paul Knight, an ex-government service man, and others write the "Warmbrunn-Knight" report, which details a plan to avoid a worldwide epidemic. Only Israel follows the report, and Jordan notes there was a high "cost."

Saladin Kader is a professor of urban planning at Khalil University, and meets with the narrator in Bethlehem, Palestine. Kader believed at the time that the Israeli plan is a Zionist lie, although does escape to Yeroham, a resettlement camp. Three weeks later, he sees the undead, on fire, and wonders why the rest of the world has not listened to Israel.

Introduction, Chapter 1 Analysis

While short, the Introduction does much to both foreshadow the events within the novel, and to prepare the reader for the structure of the book. Within these brief three pages, it becomes clear to the reader that the novel is a collection of stories from the survivors of a world-wide war between zombies and living humans. It also becomes clear that the novel is not one of pure fact and science, but of personal stories of survivors. While the author remains nameless, his character is vital to the story, as it is his writing that one will see throughout the rest of the novel. Further, the reader is given a taste in this section of the government's response to the conflict, that of terse presentation of factual information. This response, eerily similar to the response of many governments during real conflicts, is continuously presented throughout the novel.

The primary function of this section is to introduce the first known case of the infection that was the cause of World War Z, Patient Zero. Through the careful and highly descriptive account of Kwang, the reader is able to clearly see the ill in this story are not merely infected with a disease, but are unmistakably already dead. This serves both to introduce the reader to the concept of the term zombie, as well as to introduce common symptoms and the high violence level of the ill.

This section also serves to foreshadow the multitude of breakdowns in the process of disease contamination throughout the course of the outbreaks, as well as provides a



parallel to real life. First, the reaction of Kwang in terms of his initial anger at the villagers for their poor hygiene and religious superstitions shows the ethnocentric view held by many physicians in third world areas. This reaction also foreshadows stories later in the novel, as physicians ignore obvious signs of illness due to their disdain for certain populations. Additionally, the initial comments of Gu regarding the hygiene of the villagers is another sign of the discrimination that exists. However, his clear, yet indirect, signal to Kwang of the danger following the images of the ill, and the quick military containment of both the villagers and Kwang following his call to his daughter, shows the secrecy surrounding the disease that later leads to the spread of the illness.

This story serves to show one of the ways the outbreak spreads nationwide, as well as shows the reality of desperation in poorer countries. Nury's discussion of government bribes, human smuggling, and the general disregard for national security in the face of high profits shows the true dangers of illegal smuggling. His suggestion that the outbreak in Paris occurred due to the smuggling of the infected suggests this is one way much of the world was infected.

Additionally, Nury's comments about the false sense of safety in western countries, as well as rumors of a cure, foreshadow later stories of western pharmaceutical companies marketing false cures to generate profits. One can sense by Nury's reluctance to answer questions about his role in such rumors that he did in fact play a part in creating the belief that a cure existed. His focus on Asian countries as drop points for refugees shows the ramification of poverty in these areas, similarly to real life third world areas.

Finally, this story hints at an incident on a plane through the discussion of flight 575. While the reader is not told of the situation surrounding the flight, one can sense something occurred between the infected and the non-infected passengers. It is clear by this point in the book that the outbreaks are likely to spread, and the damage will be very high.

Stanley's character in this account is a symbol of today's military soldier. Throughout the chapter, it is clear Stanley understands the truth behind what occurred in Kyrgyzstan. His detailed descriptions of the battle sites, including the zombie encounter in the tunnel, the unlikely leaving of drugs and weapons by enemy forces, and his account of the Nike shoe, show his clean state of mind. However, the response of his country's military symbolizes the attempt to avoid panic through the distortion of facts by government officials. As in previous chapters, the author suggests the Zombie War was created not just from a rampant illness, but from various world government attempts to cover up outbreaks.

There are several instances of foreshadowing in this chapter, such as the brief mention of "The Panic" and of the self quarantine of Israel. However, Stanley does not expand on these ideas, but instead simply gives a hint of situations to come. Again, readers can see the progression of the disease. Whereas the disease began in New Dachang, as discussed by Kwang in the first story, it spread to Tibet through the smuggling of Nury Televaldi and others, as discussed in the second story. In this, the third story, readers can see the progression. As Nury Televaldi dropped his passengers in Kyrgyzstan,



Stanley MacDonald is found in the third story finding the remains of the infected in the same area. It is clear by this point the narrator is giving the reader a detailed walk-through of the spread of the virus.

Fernando Oliveira symbolizes the greedy, yet somewhat accepted white collar criminal. As an illegal organ surgeon, Fernando provides a service that is based on a need from wealthy individuals. His methods, however seemingly harmless, end up contributing greatly to the spread of the disease. Silva represents the arrogant physician who performs surgery with little thought to consequences. In this story, his punishment is death.

The grizzly scene described by Fernando is neatly cleaned and covered up by the local police, showing again the corruption within the government that allowed the disease to become an epidemic. Along with the illegal activities of Chinese military in shipping the organs, the cover-up of the cause of Muller's condition allowed illegal transplants without a test for the disease to continue.

This story also serves to introduce the reader to the reanimation process. Although hinted at in previous chapters, the narrator has not yet in the book stated the recently deceased rose from the dead. In this story, the reader is finally given the last piece of the outbreak equation, that of the living dead.

This story again shows the problematic issue with disease outbreak in impoverished areas. Jacob and the other residents of the area as used to gunfire so are not concerned when they hear gunfire. By the time the crisis is acknowledged, many are already infected and those that are not are trapped in their own homes. The police, firing at civilians, clearly do not care about this population.

Additionally, this story serves to show a common response among those in outbreak areas, that of denial. Jacob admits to remaining on morphine to avoid dealing with the truth, and this foreshadows the reactions of many throughout the book, from military to leaders to civilians. While some, like those Jacob hears, are clearly facing the truth, others simply call the disease "rabies," even though it is clear the disease is far more than rabies. This foreshadows later stories of pharmaceutical companies selling rabies vaccine as a solution.

This section again shows the systematic cover-ups and denials by the worlds governing bodies, which enabled the disease to become a worldwide epidemic. Although Jordan and his colleagues sought to prevent the situation, and used all resources to uncover the truth, worldwide governments refused to look at his report. As a result, steps were not taken to prevent the outbreak and chaos ensued. This is symbolic of the problems in large scale governments in modern society.

Additionally, this section serves to tie the previous stories together. Jordan mentions that during his research he found records of the Cape Cod incidents, the Canadian troop incident, and the heart surgeon incident. All three of these have been discussed in detail previously in this chapter, allowing the reader to see the progression of the



disease on both an epistemological level as well as on a social, economic, and political level. Further, the mention of the South African war plan foreshadows a story later in the novel, as does the mention of Israeli's action based on the Knight report, and the high costs associated.

This story is closely related to real-world issues occurring in and around Israel, and symbolizes the multitude of problems the area faces. Kader, the main character of the story, is a typical rebellious youth, focused not on what is happening around him, but on his own beliefs about the government of Israel and the Zionist movement. Symbolic of many of today's youth, Kader initially ignores reality, argues with his father about political issues, and hears only what he chooses to hear. It is only when he is forced to see the zombies that he truly believes in the disease and the attempts of Israel to shelter her people from the crisis. The discussions of repatriation, the pullout from the West Bank, and other discussions surrounding the settlement camps shows a clear focus in this story to represent current Israel as it would be in such a crisis situation.

This story also serves to foreshadow later events. While Israel attempted to stop the plague, it is clear from Kader's description of the civil war as well as from his experiences with the zombies that even Israel's focused effort to contain the illness failed. It is clear, by this point in the novel that the disease will spread, regardless of precautions. Additionally, however, this story serves to show that political unrest and social upheaval prevents even the most proactive plans from succeeding.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

The narrator is interviewing Bob Archer, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, in Langley, Virginia. Archer admits the CIA was already focusing on China at the time of the breakout, but China hid their disease by claiming they were cracking down on dissidents. The CIA believed the mass killings, curfews, disappearances, and reserve forces in action were all a part of a political strife within the People's Republic of China. The CIA diverted assets from areas where they outbreak was just beginning, thereby missing the disease all together.

Purges within the CIA prior to the outbreak left the agency with agents who were the bottom of the barrel in terms of skills, ability and insight. When Archer discussed the issue with coworkers, he was transferred to Buenos Aires. The CIA knew about the Warmbrunn-Knight report, but ignored it.

In Vaalajarvi, Finland, the narrator explains that the United Nations Northern Forces are in this area to kill frozen zombies who begin to reanimate as the weather warms. Travis D'Ambrosia, the Allied Commander of Europe, is overseeing the operation, and admits mistakes were made in the handling of the disease. According to D'Ambrosia, the politicians in America loved Phase One, which involved the insertion of Special Forces into infested areas to kill all zombies, because it was inexpensive, quick, and 100 percent covert. While this Phase was completed, Phase Two was never started, as the American public was simply too "war weary" to even contemplate the plan. He states that the public is not to blame, but rather the military.

The narrator meets with Breckinridge "Breck" Scott at the southernmost point on the planet, Vostok Station, Antarctica, where temperatures can reach negative eighty-nine degrees Celsius. To make money, Scott made a prototype of a rabies vaccine, which Congress and the FDA approved. Scott defends his actions to the narrator by noting "they" claimed the illness was "African rabies." He asserts his companies never lied; they simply sold a drug, Phalanx, which was a vaccine for rabies. Scott claims it was his drug that ended the recession as consumers began to regain confidence. He blames the press for the Great Panic that ensued when the story broke that the vaccine would not work.

Scott claims he simply made cash by selling hope. He blames those who deemed the disease rabies, those who broke the story, and those who passed the issue of Phalanx knowing the disease was not rabies. He also blames the consumers, who did not do any research before buying the product.

The narrator interviews Grover Carlson, former White House chief of staff, in Amarillo, Texas, who is now a dung collector for a bioconversion plant. Carlson states he received a copy of the "Knight-WarnJews" report, and that they did respond with Phase



One of the plan. The government also produced an educational video for law enforcement on how to handle an outbreak; the Department of Health and Human Services displayed a web page on how citizens should handle infected loved ones, and the government pushed Phalanx through the FDA.

Carlson admits that Phalanx was a placebo, but it calmed the people. Telling the truth to the public would have resulted in substantial panic, protest, riots, and deaths. Senators would have been pressured into creating "Zombie Protection Acts" and other "useless" measures.

The narrator is interviewing Mary Jo Miller in a "New Community" settlement in Troy, Montana. The town is built within high steel walls, with all houses on stilts, and with retractable staircases to both the lower street level as well as to neighboring homes, as a safe haven against zombies. Before the outbreak Miller had been a normal mother of two. She did not worry about the outbreak, and responded to her children's developing fear with Ritalin, Adderal XR, and Zolof, as well as Phalanx.

Miller recounts her first encounter with zombies. She heard a gunshot, then sees a zombie shatter a window and come through. Her husband jumps in front of her, screaming for her to get the gun and run as the zombie pulls him to the floor. As she escapes with her son, her daughter is being pulled out another window by another zombie. She tears the zombie's head off and frees her daughter. Her husband enters the room covered in zombie blood, and tells her to get the kids in the car. She starts the engine and hears her husband firing the gun.

Chapter 2 Analysis

This story serves to show the extreme consequences of incorrect intelligence, as well as political cover-ups. Archer admits several times throughout the story that the CIA was misled by the government of China, thereby eliminating any possibility of world protection against the outbreak. Further, the cover-up by China forced assets of the CIA to be repositioned so that additional outbreaks in other areas were also missed. Undoubtedly, had China admitted the issue, or had the CIA been more alert or had more resources, the global crisis may have been avoided. Additionally, the Wambrunn-Knight report, a detailed warning of the crisis discussed earlier in the novel was presented far before the outbreaks in other countries, but the CIA ignored the report. When combined, these displays of political conspiracy and misleading intelligence information symbolize the dangers of large superpowers relying on third party information to try to protect their own interests. Had these countries worked together or trusted intelligence information obtained outside of the agency, the world may have been spared the crisis.

This story is vital to understanding the military position at the time of the Zombie War. D'Ambrosia as a commander within the UN military is clearly disenchanted with the handling of the outbreaks, and displays a comprehensible understanding of the causes of the breakdown of forces within the world at the time. His comments about the ease of Phase One which entailed only killing existing zombies in comparison to Phase Two,



which involved a firm commitment to prevention, symbolizes the common problems in a democratic society in terms of military force. While Democracy favors quick and decisive victory, those paying for a military force rarely support long-term battle plans that involve high costs with the possibility of high mortality. The mention of a video game designed for recruitment serves to make this story more realistic, since the game mentioned was, in reality, produced by the American military specifically to aid in recruitment. Finally, this story foreshadows events later in the story, as the full plan presented to the White House is revealed in detail.

This story is a strong symbolic statement against the pharmaceutical companies of the world. The author clearly portrays Scott as an arrogant, self-serving, uncaring, crass, and nearly inhumane individual who takes no personal responsibility for his actions during the crisis. Although his company marketed a drug they knew would be ineffective, Scott claims innocence because of technicalities. Rather than responsible drug production, Scott and his team sold only false hope to those Scott believes are uneducated sheep. He shows no remorse, and instead shows pride in his actions that may have caused the death of countless individuals. This portrayal, though harsh, symbolizes the belief of many that pharmaceutical companies seek only to sell high priced, untested drugs to unwitting consumers. It is clear, through Scott's escape to oblivion, his clear understanding of his role in the outbreak, and his comments pertaining to meeting customers in hell, that Scott knows his actions were unethical; he simply doesn't care.

In addition, this story revisits a theme seen throughout the book, that of government cover-ups. The White House, FDA, and Congress knowingly approved a drug aimed at a disease that was not the cause of the outbreak. However, all parties wanted to appear to be solving the issue, and thus, did not seek to truly find a cure, but instead settled for false hope. The goal of all parties, from the pharmaceutical company to the government to the physicians to some of the public, sought only to make high profits at the risk of human lives. Finally, this story serves to foreshadow stories later in the novel pertaining to those citizens who took Phalanx in an effort to protect themselves from the outbreak.

Like the previous story, this section strongly symbolizes the inadequate response of government to crisis, and the lack of care within the government for true action to prevent the spread of disease. Throughout the section, Carlson presents a cynical view of the world in that he strongly believes there is not solution for poverty, war, illness, or crime. He presents the situation as one that needed only to be managed, and only in the way that benefited those in power. This character clearly represents those in higher government who aim only to appear to be concerned with the public. His references to the "Knight-WarnJews" report, the "pansy" media, the "pussy" law enforcement officials, and the overall disdain for the American public shows without a doubt his lack of personal responsibility or concern for the population. This is further shown by his comments regarding the dangers of telling the truth. His concern about liberal senators seeking to preserve the life of zombies, and his concern about political suicide shows, as in other areas of the book, the lack of responsibly taken by the government. In addition, this section foreshadows later stories of those in areas this unconcerned government elected to ignore.



In this story, Miller serves to symbolize the last remaining factor responsible for the outbreak, that of the normal citizen. Like so many others, both in the book as well as in the real world, Miller is too concerned with her own family and their life to pay attention to the world around her. She fails to watch the news, because it is depressing, and chooses to drug her children into complacency rather than address their growing fears. While she has heard of the illness, she falls prey to the Phalanx manufacturers, without researching the true nature of the drug. Miller does not see the truth until her family is attacked. While it is unclear in the story whether her husband is killed, it is clear by the description of his clothing following the zombie attack that he has been bitten.

It is important to note that Miller is not portrayed as a bad mother or irresponsible citizen in the story, showing a different level of blame than the pharmaceutical companies and governments in previous stories. While those groups were directly responsible for the outbreak and resulting crisis, individuals such as Miller were indirectly responsible. Although her actions did not directly cause the outbreak, her lack of attention, research, and willingness to ignore reality caused her and millions like her to be unprepared.

It is also important to note that in this story, we see the results of the Phalanx cover-up as well as those of the government's lack of proactive measures. Miller and her family believed themselves to be safe because of a drug the manufacturer knew would be ineffective. Further, the knowledge they had of the illness was limited due to governmental lies and deceit. This false invincibility, combined with a lack of information and a lack of personal responsibility, resulted in a situation that was nearly fatal to all members of the family.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

The interviewer is talking with Gavin Blaire, a pilot of a D-17 combat dirigible, at the Parnell Air National Guard Base: Memphis, Tennessee. While flying over Nebraska, he saw cars and trucks stretched to the horizon, and thousands of people panicked, in traffic, with zombies among them, taking them from cars and killing them. What haunts him most is that no one on the road had a destination, since all towns were infected. They simply joined a panic.

The narrator is interviewing Ajay Shah on the beach of a ruined, crowded shipyard in Alang, India. When Ajay arrived to attempt escape, all he and thousands of others found were hulls of former vessels. Smaller boats shuttled people back and forth for money, and some refused passengers because of their skin color or caste. Shah attempted to swim and was saved by a sailor, only to watch several thousands die as the infected began to climb onto vessels, killing everyone aboard.

The interviewer is at the Roman Rehabilitation Home for Feral Children in Topeka, Kansas, interviewing Sharon, a beautiful young woman who is mentally disabled with the mind of a four year old. Sharon is in church with her mother. Everyone at the church has their belongings, including guns. Sharon's friend Ashley is not with her mother, who has big soft arms. Sharon's mother pulls her to the back of the church as others scream "Here they come!" Her mother covers her to protect her, at first, then she grips Sharon's neck and says won't let the zombies get her. A gun sounds and her mother's hands fall away as she feels warm liquid on her face. She feels big, soft arms pick her up and carry her to the parking lot, where a voice tells her to run.

The interviewer is in a prison room in Khuzhir, Olkhon Island, Lake Baikal, The Holy Russian Empire, with Maria Zhuganova, a soldier from Russia. Zhuganova's team was not aware of the Panic since they were in a communications blackout. They were stationed in North Ossetia on a peacekeeping mission with a man they called "Rat Face," who appeared to be in charge. The team was to ask about bites from rabid animals or men, and give examinations, looking for bite marks.

Zhuganova recalls seeing a small girl running toward her in terror. Behind the little girl is another small girl, moving slowly. "Rat Face" shoots the second girl between the eyes. Her team returns from patrol the next day, only to realize that the hooded figure in the jeep is a zombie. Arkady stabs through the zombie through the heart, only to be bit. He kills her, but is immediately shot. Tear gas is deployed, and the entire camp is shackled by the Spetznaz forces. Zhuganova agrees that this was the beginning of Decimation, meaning to kill a group by a percentage of ten. The Spetznaz demanded that the soldiers break into groups of ten and select a member to be stoned to death. The resulting guilt and fear kept the rest of the soldiers silent and ensured they follow their orders.



The interviewer is in Bridgetown, Barbados, West Indies Federation, speaking with T. Sean Collins, a large Texas man who now owns a bar in the Special Economic Zone of the Indies. During the Panic, he was a mercenary, sent to Long Island to guard a high roller. His client invited the largest stars to his island estate to wait out the Panic, and stocked his mansion with food, water, and energy supplies, as well as 24-hour webcasting.

The day the alarms went off Collins heard another guard mention hundreds of zombies approaching the house. However, he realized the mass was civilians, not zombies. The civilians were shot at and fought back. Collins and a few others fled, and he paddled to New York harbor on a surfboard. He tells the narrator he wonders now why the rich and famous couldn't just lay low until the war was over.

The interviewer is questioning Ahmed Farahnakian, a former Major of the Iranian Revolution Guard Corps Air Force in Ice City, Greenland, a vast underground city. Prior to the war, many believed Pakistan and India would use nuclear weapons against one another. When the outbreak occurred, Iran believed the citizens were safe, but millions of Pakistani refugees spoiled their recovery plan. To stop the Pakistani influx, the Iranian government ordered Farahnakian to bomb the Ketch River Bridge. Pakistan retaliated against Iran and Iran dropped several nuclear bombs over several cities in Pakistan, causing radiation to spread to India, Southeast Asia, and even America. Farahnakian points out that Pakistan had helped them to build their nuclear program, and yet, in the midst of the Panic, the Iranian government used the weapons against them.

The narrator meets Todd Wainio in Denver, Colorado, under a mural of a battle between the U.S. Army and the zombies. Wainio and several hundred soldiers were set up at Yonkers in an effort put an end to the Great Panic by showing how adept the military was against the zombies. The military put the soldiers on the ground, in foxholes, instead of high and under cover. They were heavily armed, although Wainio speculates that the large weaponry and required biohazard armor were simply for show for reporters. Also available was video feed.

Although three-fourths of the initial wave of zombies were killed with the first rocket launches. Military might, including high explosive weapons, tanks, and missiles did little damage. More firing occurred, but when it died down, there were still thousands of zombies coming straight towards them. Because the video feed showed millions of zombies streaming behind the initial mob and individuals being ripped apart by zombies, the soldiers panicked and the line collapsed. Wainio was shot then being blinded. He felt hands around him and began to scream, only to be punched into submission by his fellow soldiers who rescued him. He believes the military failed that day only because of fear and improper planning by military leaders. Without the South African plan, he firmly believes the world would have ended.



Chapter 3 Analysis

While brief, this story paints a picture of the mass panic that occurred all over the world as the disease began to spread. Blaire's description of the thousands of vehicles and pricey personal possessions serves to show the sheer terror of the masses as they fled from those already infected. Further, Blaire's note that the thousands of people had no destination symbolizes the mass hysteria that developed, and foreshadows the panic and resulting deaths that happen in the stories throughout this chapter.

This short story again serves to show the immense panic and lack of thought those fleeing the plague experienced. Shah himself admits he was not aware of the state of the shipyard, but fled there in the hopes of escaping, as did thousands of others. The picture he paints of the vast death and destruction also serves to continue the theme of panic and fear the outbreak caused across the world. However, the saving of Shah by a sailor also serves to show the heroic deeds done by innocent individuals during the panic.

This story shows the true depth of fear and terror some individuals felt during the panic. In this story, Sharon tells a tale of parents so desperate to keep their children safe they are willing to kill them. Eerily told through the eyes of a small child, this story is more vibrant because of the imitation Sharon is forced to do as a result of a low vocabulary. The pantomiming of throwing children against walls, her own mother's attempt to kill her and the sounds of zombies only serves to show the reader the true face of the panic. In addition, this story also again shows the heroic deeds done by some, as Ashley's mother kills Sharon's mother in order to save Sharon. This is clear by the description of the salty wet liquid on Sharon's face immediately following a gunshot, and through Sharon's description of the big, soft arms. As one of the most poignant stories of the novel, this short piece also symbolizes the lengths to which parents could go during the panic.

This story symbolizes again the danger of governmental cover-ups during the outbreak and the ensuing Panic, as well as shows the improper, yet realistic, actions of higher government in times of crisis. Zhuganova and the others, all good soldiers, follow orders until those orders become what they considers inhumane. However, when they stand up for themselves, and against "Rat Face," representative of higher government, they are beat into submission through fear tactics, brute violence, and intimidation. Although the shooting of the little girl was necessary, the soldiers were not told the truth of the disease, and thus, did not understand. The Spetzcaz represent clearly the "Special Forces" of any government, brought in to force others to follow orders, while the decimation represents the horrible methods some governments employ to enforce policy.

This story shows another side of the Panic, that of the wealthy in comparison to the average citizen. Able to provide safe shelter, plenty of food and water, and full protection, the wealthy entertainment professionals in the story are too self-centered to simply wait out the war in comfort. Instead, these individuals flaunt their position to



those struggling just to survive. This clearly symbolizes the stars of today's society, who often place themselves in the spotlight for higher ratings. However, in the story, the tables are turned when average citizens attack the stars to obtain the same security they enjoy. Collin's description of the inept skills of the stars in comparison to the average citizens represents the core difference between those able to survive the Panic, and those that are not. Additionally, the changeover from star worship to star killing in the book shows the drastic social change in the world during the outbreak.

This story represents the irrational response of neighboring countries during the Panic. Whereas other stories in this chapter showed the responses of civilians, children, parents, soldiers, and high society, this story reflects the reaction of a government trying to save her own people. While Iran and Pakistan are not at war prior to the Panic, a lack of planning and cooperation, as well as a lack of communication between countries, results in a nuclear incident that kills millions through radiation all over the world. Although noble in principle, the Iranian government clearly misjudged the reaction of the Pakistani government, and overreacted to their revenge attacks. Rather than saving the people of Iran and Pakistan, the governments of both countries caused more damage to property, infrastructure, and humanity than the outbreak itself.

This final story of the Great Panic shows the crisis from the point of view of a soldier in the US military. Woefully underarmed, highly exposed, and without proper information, the soldiers at Yonkers died as a result of a military action designed to increase public confidence. True to real world government responses, the US government in the story aims to instill confidence through a mass show of force. In this case, however, the planners of the action do not think through their strategy, which results in a horrendous loss of life, with very little damage to zombie forces. The soldiers, with an overabundance of armor but a limited supply of useful ammunition and weapons, begin to panic. Through the descriptions of voices on radios and the videos each soldier is able to see, the author shows clearly how fear is spread throughout the line to the point of sheer panic. This symbolizes the true progression of a panic, where one individual, succumbing to his or her own fear, is able to place terror in others without effort.

However, this story also serves as the turning point of the storyline. Throughout the stories so far, the author has shown the progression of the outbreak, the individuals responsible for the spread of the disease, and the panic that ensued in all areas following the outbreaks. However, as Wainio notes in the story, the stand at Yonkers was the beginning of coordinated military responses to the crisis. The lessons in this story, though hard learned, foreshadow later, better coordinated efforts to end the zombie war later in the novel. Finally, the mention of the South African plan foreshadows the true solution to the zombie crisis later in the book.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

The narrator sits with Xolelwa Azania at his writing desk on Robben Island, Cape Town Providence, United States of Southern Africa, as Azania writes his third novel about the zombie war. Azania notes that the hero of the war, Paul Redeker, is dispassionate about everything, and is therefore able to write alternative solutions to world problems others would avoid. In the early 1980s, the apartheid government had him rewrite their "Orange Plan," the plan for the white minority in the event the indigenous populations joined for one large uprising. The revision identified which Afrikaner populations would be sacrificed and which would be saved. The plan made Redeker the most hated man in South Africa. However, during the Great Panic, the government again sought Redeker out, this time to develop a plan for the zombie war.

The "Redeker Plan" began with the consolidation of all military forces to a secure safe zone, where a portion of the civilian population would be evacuated to and defended. Those left behind would act as human bait, drawing the undead away from the protected civilians. His plan was rejected at first, until Rolihlahla, the father of democracy in South Africa, rose and embraced Redeker in an historic moment, as Redeker was a white Afrikaner. This hug must have deeply affected Redeker, as he was not seen again. Azania stepped in and directed the implementation of the Redeker Plan. At the close of the interview, the narrator notes he is leaving the island where the Robben Island Psychiatric Institution is located, and writes in the log book that the name of the patient he has visited is Paul Redeker.

Philip Adler meets with the narrator at a bar in Armagh, Ireland. Adler was in command of a military operation in Hamburg, Germany. Lang orders the soldiers to leave the civilians without informing them, an order Adler refuses until faced with his men being charged with treason and executed. As a duty to his men, Adler agrees. Adler promises himself he will kill Lang, only to find later that Lang has committed suicide.

Adler hates Lang now more than he did then because he now knows of the Prochnow plan, the German version of the Redeker Plan. Lang knew the guilt those involved in implementing the plan would face, and could not deal with that consequence.

The narrator is at the Yevchenko Veterans' Sanatorium in Odessa, Ukraine. Bohdan Taras, a war hero, remembers how he and his troops are in Kiev, which is supposed to be a safe zone, but are ordered to oversee the Patona Bridge as the town is evacuated. Without proper resources, they are ordered to check all refugees for infection. They attempt to do so, but are refused, beaten, stabbed, and shot. Kiev is set on fire. Taras realizes the bombers are about to bomb the bridge and release RVX, a chemical weapon. The chemical attacks the central nervous system, although it doesn't kill zombies. Taras realizes he and his team are supposed to kill those still standing—the zombies. Taras and his men retreat once everyone is dead, and he sees a statue of



Rodina Mat, or the Motherland, towering over burning Kiev with her sword and shield held high.

The narrator is interviewing a member of the Wilderness Restoration Project, Jesika Hendricks, who returns to the Sand Lakes Provincial Wilderness Park in Manitoba, Canada, every year to clean the area of refugee debris and human remains. In her story, she and her parents notice the retreat of the US Military and heed the advice of others to go north. The family stops at a campsite with a few other refugees, and at first, are content, with plentiful food and wood. However, refugees pour into the area and food and wood become scarce, fights break out, and the area becomes covered in garbage and waste. As the family begins to starve, Hendricks' parents begin to argue often. One evening, her parents are fighting, and Hendricks hears her mother speak of "it" being the only way, and arguing that "it" wasn't "that bad." Her father trades a radio for stew.

Hendricks points out a pile of bones to the narrator, and tells him the winter was hard, but that there was plenty of food. When the spring came, the dead began to reanimate. She casually kills a zombie that begins to reanimate in front of the narrator.

The narrator is interviewing Sardar Khanin the Udaipur Lake Palace in Lake Pichola, Rajasthan, India, who remembers a number of monkeys crawling over thousands of refugees on a Himalayan road. Many refugees fall over the side or are killed as their vehicles fall from the mountain. Sergeant Mukherjee is in charge of destroying the pass, and as he and Mukherjee arrive at the pass, they find it still full of refugees. Mukherjee is ordered to blow the bridge, regardless of the refugees. General Raj-Singh calmly explains that the pass must be destroyed, or bombers overhead will release thermonuclear weapons. Khan realizes those weapons would simply create a sloping ramp right up the pass. Raj-Singh silently takes the detonator from Mukherjee, relieving him from the responsibility of mass murder.

Khanin is knocked unconscious as the bombs are dropped. When he comes to, he sees a chasm before him with the zombies on the other side. He imagines a nearby monkey saying to him that the war is nearly over. Instead, the monkey pees in Khan's face.

Chapter 4 Analysis

As the first story in this chapter, the tale of Paul Redeker is one that shows the turning point of the war in a way that captures both the human and the military side of the change. Throughout the entire story, the reader believes Xolelwa Azania is simply a man who knows of the Redeker Plan in a third-person sense. It is not until the end of the story that one sees Azania truly is Redeker, who has been placed in an insane asylum. It is unclear as to whether Redeker is there for safety, or if in fact the emotional turmoil of the implementation of the plan broke the psychological stability of the most controversial man in South Africa. However, Azania's heartfelt recap of his encounter with the father of democracy suggests an honest psychological breakdown.



From a military standpoint, the Redeker Plan itself shows the drastic measures some government forces used to win the war against the undead, as does the use of a man many in the country already see as a monster. After the Orange Plan was developed, Redeker was seen by the government and the indigenous populations as an inhumane monster. However, when desperate for a solution, the government sought those exact characteristics. Using the native population as human bait, the government of South Africa saved the country by choosing to eliminate the undesirable. While effective, and possibly the only solution, the plan clearly uses a combination of discrimination, cold military strategy, and heartless calculations to eliminate the infected, and much of the indigenous population. Further, this story foreshadows the means used by governments around the world through the rest of the novel to eliminate the infected.

As in the previous story, the story of the response of the German military symbolizes the desperation of government officials to end the outbreak, and the extreme measures used to achieve this end. Further, as with the psychological breakdown of Redeker in the previous story, the suicide of Lang and the guilt felt by Adler in this story tell of the anguish and psychological changes such tactics had on those in charge of implementing a plan entailing certain death for thousands of civilians. While those ordered to commit such horrible acts against their own citizens did so to save their country, the toll of such actions on both the reputations of the military as well as on the individual's own psychological state are long lasting and in some cases, destructive. Finally, this story also serves to foreshadow other stories in this chapter, as soldiers around the world are faced with similar situations, and consequences.

As in the previous stories, this section continues the theme of governmental homicide in an effort to contain the zombie outbreak, as well as the theme of personal anguish and guilt over the acts committed to stop the war. Taras and his team attempt to do as ordered, but are unable to process the refugees. In a last-resort effort to stop the disease, the government elects to kill thousands of innocent individuals to protect at least some of the population. This again symbolizes the desperation of countries around the world to contain the disease, and the heartless measures believed necessary to meet this end.

Taras clearly feels extreme guilt over his participation in the mass executions, but as a soldier, also follows orders. Further, during the interview, Taras is seen several times coughing up blood. Readers are led to believe the biological weapons used on the bridge caused the illness, and eventual death, of Taras as well. This symbolizes the irony of this war, in that those following orders are left to live the rest of their lives, however short, with the guilt and mental anguish of their actions, leaving one to wonder if those who died were better off.

This chapter, although disturbing, shows the extreme measures civilians were forced to take in order to live through the zombie war. Whereas the previous sections showed the reaction of the government to the war, this section shows the reactions of citizens left to die. The measures used to survive by these individuals, including theft, deception, abandonment, and even cannibalism, symbolizes the true nature of the human instinct to survive. Although grisly, the leaving behind of citizens already infected, as well as the



killing and eating of other refugees, allowed some of the civilians to survive the winter months. As illness and freezing killed neighbors, those left alive capitalized on the unfortunate events in order to save their own, and their family's lives.

Additionally, the casual way in which Hendricks kills the zombie at the end of the story, as well as her emotionless account of the death and destruction during the war, symbolizes again the turning of the tide in terms of humanity. Winning the war required humankind to become heartless and violent. Hendricks says throughout her story that she sheltered herself from views of zombies on the way to the campsite. By the end, readers see her killing without remorse or fear. Clearly, the war changed not only the landscape and the tactics of the government, but humanity its self.

As the final story of this chapter, the tale of Khan symbolizes both the heroism of even those of higher rank at the time of the war, and again the desperate measures used to contain the disease. Khan, a mere road builder, suddenly finds himself partly responsible for the deaths of thousands of individuals. He is saved only by a brave, courageous General, known throughout India, who ends his own life in order to save others. This symbolizes the irony of the situation, in that the General understands his own life and the lives of the thousands of refugees on the pass are expendable to save the country. This story shows again a vast limitation of the zombies, namely a severe lack of intelligence and sophistication. The creatures continue to fall off a cliff in an effort to reach the unreachable. This foreshadows the eventual use of this fact to help defeat the zombies.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

In Taos, New Mexico, the narrator is speaking with Arthur Sinclair, director of the Department of Strategic Resources, or DeStRes, a group formed to help rebuild the war machine within the safe zone to the west of the Rocky Mountains. The refugee camps were turned to work camps. A tool, called a Standard Infantry Entrenchment Tool, or a Lobotomizer, was a steel rod with a shovel handle and a double bladed axe mounted on the end, and was one of the most effective weapons in the war.

In Burlington, Vermont, the narrator is interviewing "the Whacko." He was once the vice-president, and was both revered and despised. "Whacko" points out that the primary roadblocks to changes were the religious fundamentalists, the "Greenies," or those who believed the zombies were sent by the "Divine Goddess," and the Rebels, who believed the government had abandoned them, and sought to fight them.

The narrator speaks with Joe Muhammad, a disabled man who joined the volunteer forces to fight the zombies during the war, in Wenatchee, Washington. He was placed on Neighborhood Security, which involved patrolling neighborhoods looking for zombies. The largest problem was the quislings, or those healthy individuals who, as a result of mental breakdown, began acting like zombies and were killed.

The narrator is speaking with famous pre-war film maker Roy Elliot in Malibu, California. Elliot discusses a crisis during the war called Asymptomatic Demise Syndrome, Apocalyptic Despair Syndrome, or ADS. Nearly one hundred people per day who died from this mental illness. Elliot filmed a standoff between students and zombies in Claremont, California, where 300 students fought off 10,000 zombies. When the movie, "Victory at Avalon" was shown at several camps, a five to ten percent drop in ADS cases occurred following the film's release.

In a film titled "Fire of the Gods," Elliot reported of two weapons, the MTHEL, which was a laser that shattered bones to dust, and Zeus, which was a solid laser that could be used to burn through the skulls of zombies. Elliot admits the weapons were inefficient against the zombies, but were a highly technical weapon civilians loved. Although Elliot agrees that the film was a lie, he states that some lies are good but that the lies the government told the people in the beginning of the war were the kind that kill people. His lies were used to give hope

In Parnell Air National Guard Base, Tennessee, the narrator is speaking with Christina Eliopolis, a small-framed war hero who flew restocking missions. On a routine restocking flight, her plane crashed in an infested zone. Eliopolis recalls a voice coming over her radio, claiming to be one of the Skywatch operators, identified as Mets. Mets and instructed Eliopolis to go to open ground for rescue, and guided her in escaping the zombies. Mets appeared to have military knowledge, and gave Eliopolis the information



and strength she needed to escape. The narrator cautiously reminds Eliopolis that the Air Force never found Mets.

Chapter 5 Analysis

This section serves a number of purposes in the novel. First, Sinclair's discussion of the new procedures designed to create a workable army shows the dedication of the US military to continue progress to retain power over the safe zone. This foreshadows later developments as the military begins planning to take back infected areas. Additionally, the author clearly makes a statement in this section about the abilities of the average prewar citizen. As Sinclair notes, most civilians have few or no skills needed in a wartime crisis. Overeducated and under skilled, these white collar individuals find themselves taking orders from blue collar workers who used to be employed by them. This ironic situation symbolizes the loss of real talent in a modern economy.

Further, this section revisits D'Ambrosia, whom readers met in Chapter 2 in Finland. During that discussion, D'Ambrosia mentioned the fault of the war lay with the military, and their improper handling of the situation. Readers are thus not surprised to find this same analytical expertise in practical use during the new phase of the war. It is clear that Sinclair values the insight and opinions of D'Ambrosia.

Finally, this section serves to show the condition of the world following the outbreak, as well as to show the overwhelming abilities of human kind to reestablish themselves. White collar workers find pride in their employment, blue collar workers are desired and sought out, and recycling becomes the saving grace of the nation. Innovation and originality is also looked upon as an asset, since such cost saving inventions lead to some of the most effective weapons. While the world has drastically changed, humanity adapts and thrives under new conditions, showing their ability to adjust.

This story gives a highly detailed account of the crew of the Admiral Zheng He submarine. However, intertwined with the factual information, the author again shows readers the negative effects of governmental cover-up, and the disastrous consequences of a lack of information. Additionally, the tenacity of the crew in their months at sea show the overwhelming strength of the human spirit. Chang, as the caring Captain, represents the responsibility of commanders in times of war, as his own loyalty to his country and his men lead him to possibly kill his own son. While previous stories in the novel have shown the soldiers of the world, this story shows the side of the commanders in the war.

This section, while brief, does show the challenges faced by the new government of the US during the Zombie War. While the "Whacko" is certainly an odd character, his passion for his country and his unrelenting desire to recreate America allow readers to see beyond his oddities and note his true intentions. He admits his faults, and uses them to his advantage. Like so many throughout the story, he does not see challenges such as dealing with adverse groups as problems, but instead, as obstacles to a new



world. His character symbolizes the change in America from a world centered on greed and power to one in which survival is the main priority.

This section details several themes used within the novel. First, the character of Joe Muhammad shows the role the disabled were able to play in the war, and shows the determination some had to participate in the safety of the camps. However, the stories Muhammad tells of his own injury also show the downside of human characters, those of the thieves looting homes following the Panic.

In addition, Muhammad's story discusses the theme of the fragility of the human mind, as discussed in previous sections. The quislings clearly have broken the link between reality and fantasy, and have broken under the pressure of dealing with the zombie threat. Instead of choosing to fight, as several other characters in this novel, these individuals, too frightened to cope, chose instead to attempt to join the enemy who terrified them. As Muhammad points out, however, these individuals were often killed by true zombies. Their presence still had an impact on the war, however, as their false bite attempts of victims supported the use of an ineffective vaccine, as seen previously in the novel.

The story of Roy Elliot discusses several themes used in the novel, those of human fragility, deceit, responsibility, and human resilience. The disease Elliot fights to end, that of ADS, is a direct result of the fragility of the human mind. As Elliot explains, individuals who suffer from ADS simply lose all will to live, and die as a result. On the other hand, many individuals suffering from ADS are cured, or at least pacified, after being shown "proof" of the resilience of the human spirit shown through the acts of the individuals in Elliot's films. This symbolizes the fine line between human despair and hope.

Additionally, this story speaks volumes about responsibility. Elliot, known to the world as a film maker, feels a need to help where he is most able. He brings hope to the civilians of the safe zone. However, he does so by slanting the truth and through lies and deception. While Elliot takes responsibility for these lies, he also firmly believes that his lies bring hope which saves lives, whereas the lies and deceit of the government created a situation that resulted only in death. His statements show his clear conviction that his role in the war was one of positive influence, even if his methods were deceitful.

As one of the most poignant stories of the book, this piece is based on the theme of human stability and resilience. The character of Eliopolis clearly symbolizes the immense strength of some human beings in the face of danger and adversity. Mets, the radio operator who saves Eliopolis, is painted to be a figment of Eliopolis' imagination. Out of sorts, exhausted, and nearly incapable of functioning, Eliopolis hears a voice that continuously guides her in the right direction, and "saves" her in several cases from being killed by zombies, or by her own hand. Eliopolis' ability to fragment her own personality to save her life is a testament in the novel to the resiliency of human kind, regardless of how such resiliency manifests. Whether Mets was real or was simply a fragment of Eliopolis herself, she gave all of herself to save another human being.

Whereas the last piece discussed those who were unable to cope with the zombie war, this piece shows that some will go to any length to survive.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Allen Forbes, a writer and storyteller, is speaking with the narrator at the site of Kost, a fourteenth century castle, in the Province of Bohemia, The European Union. Castles were vital during World War Z, with their excellent defenses. Forbes was at Windsor during the war, a castle designed for war with its own well, farmlands, and security technologies, as well as siphoning oil and gas from beneath the castle. The Queen would not leave, stating that nobility means to serve others. Like the castles, royalty became shields: the castles for the body, and the royal family for the soul.

At the Ulithi Atol, in the Federated States of Micronesia, Barati Palshigar is speaking with the narrator at a vast coral reef used to shelter hundreds during the war. Palshigar was one of the first broadcasters for Radio Free Earth, which served as a weapon against the lies, misinformation, and lack of information by the governments around the world. The broadcasters attempted to give safety information, survival skill tactics, and correct information to combat falsehoods. Simple cultural beliefs had to be combated, such as in one country, small girls were raped due to a belief that sex with virgins was the cure. In another, members of a religious cult were told to become infected to reach heaven. IR, or information reception, operators had to transmit their own country's information over the same channel thousands used to cry for help. By the end of the war, all IR operators had committed suicide, unable to forget the anguish they heard.

Hyungchol Choi is the deputy director of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency in the Demilitarized Zone in South Korea. He notes no one knows what happened in North Korea, which had severed all diplomatic relations, then all its guards and spies vanished. The older generation pushed to evacuate, and in doing so, saved the country. He thinks the possibility exists that twenty three million North Korean zombies could be trapped in underground bunkers, just waiting for release.

In Kyoto, Japan, Kondo Tatsumi shows the narrator an image of himself as a young, skinny, pimpled boy. Today, he is muscular and tan, with a light and cordial disposition. He was an "otaku," or outsider, prior to the war, living in cyberspace. He blames the educational system of Japan, filled with facts and figures without moral or social context. He did not feel threatened because to him, the outside world didn't exist. One morning, he realized he couldn't log on. He discovered the zombies, and realized his city was burning to the ground. As he escaped, he found a sword that had belonged to an old soldier. He promised himself he would not only escape, but would learn to really live.

Still in Kyoto, Japan, the narrator sits with Sensei Tomonga Ijro, founder of the Tatenokai, or "Shield Society." Beside him sits Kondo Tatsumi, who is now Tomonga's second in command.



Tomonga explains he is a "hibakusha," or survivor of the bomb, and is thus blind and considered an outcast. Hibakusha are both revealed and treated as burdens.

Instead of waiting to hear from the government to tell him what to do, Tomonga fled to the Hiddaka Mountains, where he survived, although he felt he hadn't fulfilled his purpose in life. Over several months, Tomonga survived in spite of his blindness; in fact, perhaps because of his blindness, as it forced him to always be alert. When Tomonga met Tatsumi in the mountains and Tatsumi explained what was occurring in Japan: the plague, the evacuation, the abandonment of the population, Tomonga finally understood that his purpose in life was to help rebuild Japan and rid the country of zombies.

Seryosha Garcia Alvarez is speaking with the narrator in his office which overlooks the harbor in Cienfuegos, Cuba. Prior to the war, Cuba was a failing country, with little economic resources and an oppressive ruler, Fidel Castro. However, the constant preparedness for war allowed the country to thrive. Although several million refugees attempted to invade, inhabit, and overrun the country, the native population defended the country, while allowing nearly five million who simply wanted sanctuary into Resettlement Camps. Later, those inhabitants integrated into Cuban society, bringing with them a true sense of democracy to Cuba.

At the Patriot's Memorial in the Forbidden City in Beijing, China, Admiral Xu Zhicai sits with the narrator and states that he and his shipmates are not traitors. His captain, Chen, smuggled a submarine, the Admiral Zheng He, to make a safe home for him and his men. When the ship began to run out of food, a makeshift farm was set up in the missile room. After searching for months for soil, the crew docked at Manihi and traded power from the engines for goods. They stayed for months until a ship on the dock was exploded by a missile. They went to escape, but sonar detected another Chinese submarine, which they engaged. While the crew of the Zheng escaped harm, the other sub was destroyed.

The Captain's son was a commander of a submarine, so Chang believed he had just killed his own son. Several weeks later, however, another sub found them, and the crew realized the captain of the incoming sub was Chang's son. He told the crew his assignment was to bring the Zheng back to China under friendly terms. China was at war, and the Zheng was to fire on Xilinhot, the last command post of the Poliburo, or those who were still commanding over China. The crew destroyed Xilinhot, and China reunited. Shortly thereafter, Captain Chang died.

Seated in a hospital room in Sydney, Australia, the narrator talks with retired astronaut Terry Knox, who was commander of the space station at the time of the war. He and his crewmates used the space station to redirect satellites for the war effort. They watched the events unfold from the views of spy satellites. They saw General Raj-Sing as he blew up the bridge, Japan's evacuation, the disease spread across Asia and the US, the fires, and the nuclear war between Pakistan and Iran. They also saw the collapse of the Three Gorges Dam. The Chinese knew the dam was going to collapse and did nothing to save it.



When the crew received a signal from the Chinese space station, they investigated, only to find the Chinese crew dead. They looted the ship, which allowed them to remain alive for several more months. Finally, a commercial spacecraft rescued the astronauts, although because of the constant radiation, members of the crew died. Knox says he wouldn't change anything, since he and his crew helped to win the war, but dies three days after the interview.

At Acund, Isla Grande de Chiloe, Chile Ernesto Olguin is talking with the narrator about his role in The Honolulu Conference. The US wanted to go on the offensive to take back occupied territory, although others argued against this, with some suggesting the undead outbreaks in First World countries allowed smaller countries to thrive without "imperialist intervention." Many claimed the crisis was the fault of the "White hegemony" that ruled the Earth, and that the death in such countries was "justice" for the future.

The US president reminded the delegates that the zombies had taken not only lives and land, but also the human soul of the people of Earth. A vote was cast; the countries would go to all-out war against the zombie forces.

Chapter 6 Analysis

In this piece, Forbes is convincing as the reluctant storyteller and seems to symbolize the civilian survivor of the British Z war. Mild mannered and ill-at-ease, Forbes tells a story that speaks not only of human resilience, but also of government response to the crisis. In previous sections of the novel, the narrator interviews those who admit to government lies and conspiracy to cover up the true crisis. In this story, however, readers see the other side of the government, that of the nobility of the Queen. This clear statement of a lack of faith in modern government and an underlying dignity of tradition also foreshadows a theme of reliance on "old" methods to survive during the war.

In this section, readers again see the common themes of responsibility and governmental cover-up. The character of Palshigar mentions several times the true enemy of mankind was the lies and lack of responsibility all parties took in the early part of the war. His stories of rape, murder, suicide, and death clearly symbolize the consequences of misinformation during war, and the lack of personal responsibility taken during the war. He and his staff, however, clearly take on such responsibilities as their guilt overcomes them. While Palshigar's service to mankind during the war is unquestionable, he and his colleagues represent yet another victim of the war, that of those selfless individuals who are forever scarred by their wartime experiences.

In previous sections in this chapter, readers were given several stories of true human strength, governmental decency, and attempts to combat deceit during the war. In this story, however, readers are returned to the theme of the consequences of miscommunication and depict on the part of the government. While North Korea allowed South Korea to believe they were preparing for war, their population vanished. Whether those individuals are simply being held underground under tight rule or are now a



trapped mass of zombies is unclear, but either way, the cause of such a drastic situation is undeniably the lies of the North Korean government. This symbolizes again the drastic, deadly consequences of governmental cover-ups.

This section serves several purposes in the novel. First, the character of Tatsumi symbolizes the Japanese youth: those who, by upbringing, know only of facts and figures. Until he is forced into reality, Tatsumi does not have common sense. Once he is faced with danger, however, his years of information collecting serve to help him escape. Again, this shows the measures used by the people of Earth to escape the zombies. Additionally, the author, through Tatsumi's use of traditional Japanese sword, shows a reliance on older technologies and an abandonment of current technology.

In this section, readers see Tatsumi again, this time as a grown man with a purpose. The story of Tomonga's survival serves to show how Tatsumi became such a powerful figure. Additionally, the story of Tomonga serves to again show the power of the human mind. Blind, shamed, and outcast, Tomonga nevertheless continues to survive in the world, and even survives where others with sight would fail. Like Muhammad in the US, Tomonga is not inhibited by his disability, but instead finds the one area in which he is highly useful. Tomonga uses skills from pre-modern society to survive, showing again the theme of reverting back from modern technology to older methods of survival.

While short, this story shows a return to the theme of governmental reaction to the zombie war. However, unlike the cases of China, North Korea, and other countries, Cuba used its unsettled history as an advantage, allowing the country to not only sustain through to war, but also to gain their own freedom. The quick and decisive measures taken by Castro and other government leaders allowed the country to contain the illness, and maintain power. Countries who once ruled or helped to destroy Cuba were now at the countries disposal, and as a nation, the Cuban population rallied to form one of the most defended and successful areas of the war.

The character of Terry Knox represents still another victim of war, that of the unseen hero. Out of harm's way in space, the crew of the space station still found a way to help save their planet. Their heroism allowed for communications, weapons and all other satellite based resources to continue, even when those on the ground were helpless. However, from their safe zone, they also witnessed the tragedy of war: the death, the lies, the destructions. Unable to see anything other than what the spy satellites showed, the crew watched their planet disintegrate, and still fought to save it, at the cost of their own lives. This shows again the power of the human spirit, and the desire in some to do anything to help.

In addition, this chapter serves to fill in several questions from previous chapters. It is clear from this story that General Raj-Sing was indeed the one to blow up the bridge in Chapter 4 in India, and that China truly did know the dam would give way, and kill millions. Their unbiased accounts of these events shows clearly the description of the Chinese government, the tactical brilliance of the Japanese evacuation, and the greatness of previous heroes in the story.



This section symbolizes another turning point in the battle against the zombies. Until this point, all parties were on the defensive, simply trying to survive and escape. However, with the US leading the fight, the countries decide during this conference to begin retaking their lands. This decision is not unanimous, however, and clearly has a small backing, but does show the government's effort to regain their lands, and save their people. We see in this chapter the president of the US, spoken about by the "Whacko" in Chapter 5, and can see his description of a soft-spoken yet passionate man is accurate. The president clearly wants to prove to themselves and to the future generations that human kind was not wiped out by this crisis, nor deterred, but simply detained. He wants to show the future the true strength of man. While Olguin and his associates witness the turning point, their consumption of possibly the last bottle of vintage wine on the planet symbolizes renewed hope, and a new sense of partnership and cooperation.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

Aboard the Mauro Altieri, three thousand feet above Vaalajarvi, Finland, the narrator is speaking with the famous General D'Ambrosia aboard an aircraft in the Combat Information Center (CIC). When the US announced they were going to war, he knew he'd be sending thousands to their deaths. The zombies needed neither food nor leadership. According to D'Ambrosia, the zombies were the perfect fighting force, and that they, unlike any other army, were 100 percent committed to war.

In Denver, Colorado, Todd Wainio does dishes after a meal and talks to the narrator, saying that after the announcement of war, the new army no longer mechanized, now traveled on foot, armored only with light BUD uniforms that helped protect against a bite. Their primary weapons were the infantry rifle and the Lobo. The bullets were designed to fragment inside the skull of the zombie, reducing the likelihood for infection to others nearby and ensuring death. The soldiers were no longer required to have skills other than stamina and the ability to withstand Z-Shock, or the mental strain of fighting zombies.

The new army marched to Hope, New Mexico, where dogs would lead the zombies to the army firing line. The line, in two rows, would continuously fire, swapping out between the first and second line as needed to provide a constant firing squad. By dawn, the last of the zombies was dead. At that moment, he finally felt humanity could win the war.

Darnell Hackworth runs a retirement home for the dogs of the war in Ainsworth, Nebraska. He is speaking with the narrator at his primary camp, the only one left in the US. Dogs were used to sniff out the infected, or simply to know when a zombie was near. They were also used as decoys and to signal close and long term zombie armies. He notes that purebred dogs were too inconsistent, but that mix breeds were excellent. The flesh of the dead were toxic, so the dogs were trained not to bite, but to trip the zombies. The military nearly allowed units to be trained as "fragdogs," with bombs strapped to them and sent into battle to detonate. Hackworth became a handler when he beat two men who had a dog chained and roped. He used to hate dogs.

The narrator is speaking with Father Sergei Ryzhkov, an old cleric who shows clear signs of war wounds, including broken fingers, no teeth and a limp, in Siberia, in The Holy Russian Empire. The cleric explains that Russia had lost faith in God long before the war, and that the war simply affirmed their belief that God did not exist. Many soldiers would get bitten and infected, and have to be killed or commit suicide. Ryzhkov's duty was to give the last rights. He discovered his purpose: to stop young infected boys from committing the sin of suicide, and taking the sin from them by killing them.



News traveled quickly across Russia, and priests became the new exterminators of the infected. The narrator questions the cleric about the rumors of "death squad" priests sent to kill enemies under a guise of saving the infected, although Ryzhkov denies knowledge. A knock is heard at the door, and Ryzhkov answers to find a young boy gesturing wildly. Ryzhkov takes a gun and a bible from a trunk by his bed and excuses himself.

Master Chief Petty Officer Michael Choi is taking the narrator deep into the ocean in the submarine, USS Holo Kai, off the coast of the Hawaiian Islands to show him how the Deep Submergence Combat Corp, or DSCC, handles zombies underwater. There are still thousands of zombies living underwater. He admits their armor, the ADS, or Atmospheric Diving Suit, is bite proof, designed to allow divers to go deep under water into high pressure while enclosed in a bubble of surface pressure, and can handle rapid resurfacing. DeStRes nearly closed down their operations until an episode in the North Sea when soldiers protecting workers of an oil rig were suddenly surrounded, but none were killed. The visibility in the water dropped to zero, and the soldiers found themselves fighting blindly. When none were killed, DeStRes began using them for beachhead sanitation and harbor clearing. Beachhead sanitation is the use of sonar to distract underwater zombies from incoming ships, and harbor clearing is the process of clearing harbors from sunken vessels that are often filled with zombies. According to Choi, the men working the jobs are better than machines.

The narrator is again speaking with Todd Wainio, this time at a picnic in Victory Park in Quebec, Canada. Wainio tells him of the final battle for the US, called "the road to New York." The battle plan was to form three groups, one that went across the Midwest, one through the north, and one across the south. At the Appalachians, the southern force would move across and up Florida, while the North would cut to New York, and move down the coast, joining up with the middle section crossing the mountains. The process took three years. Once the US was done with cleaning their country, they would assist Canada and Mexico if they would protect the border.

Three major threats existed: the quislings, the feral humans, and the feral animals. There were also the LaMOEs, or Last Man on Earths, lone men and women who had become kings in their own areas. Freeing the isolated zones could be difficult because of rebel forces, and sometimes the groups being saved claimed not to need saving. Wainio reports that in a town in Kansas, they found hundreds dead in a church where it was clear the children were killed by their parents. The biggest threat was the human psyche. Wainio states he lost his squad leader to mental illness. One of the original students from the movie *The Battle of the Five Colleges*, or *Avalon*, the woman was tough and fierce, but when she discovered a turtle, now a rare animal, she began speaking to it and was led away by the psychologist. Even though he knew the war was almost over, the shock of seeing Yonkers again nearly made him falter. As he boarded the boat on the Hudson, however, he knew he was finally safe, and still sane.



Chapter 7 Analysis

This section, though short, shows the true nature of the army the world is about to fight head on. D'Ambrosia, seen several times throughout the novel as a logical, intelligent, and highly trained leader, even admits his own fear of fighting such a massive army. The zombies do not require anything to function, and are therefore able to completely commit to war. They do not have emotion or intelligence, do not need food, shelter, and can be nearly blown apart without damage to their ability to kill. The clear description of this army by D'Ambrosia foreshadows the careful planning and battle execution seen in the remainder of this chapter.

Wainio returns in this story to tell of his second large battle against the zombies. Readers heard Wainio discuss the disaster of Yonkers previously in the novel. Now, however, following in suite from the previous chapter, the military is prepared properly for battle. Armed to the rooftops with proper weapons and ammunition for zombies, and with a strategic, logical, intelligent battle strategy, the new military succeeds in this fight where others have failed. Again, the author shows a regression from modern technology to the most basic of fighting tactics, continuing the theme from prior chapters. Further, this story foreshadows the success of the fight to reclaim the nations, and again shows the power of the human will to survive.

Darnell Hackworth's character in this story represents again the changes a person goes through during times of war. Once an avid hater of dogs, Hackworth finds himself not only a handler, but feeling a high level of responsibility for the animals he and others work with. His gentle nature with his own dog, as well as his clear sense of purpose as he tells his story symbolizes this high level quite well. As readers have seen within the novel, the canine units were highly important during the war, and Hackworth's detailed account of their training and activities shows this strong purpose.

The tale of Sergei Ryzhkov is one of vast implications for the spiritual side of war. On one hand, Ryzhkov claims he and the other priests of the nation simply sought to save young soldiers from the sin of suicide. On the other hand, the narrator claims to have information about the use of religion for political gain, death squad priests, and deception. While one is left to decide which side is accurate, the story does show again the ramifications of war on both religion as well as politics. Ryzhkov clearly believes in his cause, as does the government who continues to employ him, as seen by the reason for the end of the interview. However, if the accusations are true, then the responsibility of the death of many innocent people may lie in the hands of priests claiming to do God's will.

This story again discusses technology, but instead of returning to simple machinery, this section shows a vast improvement to technology that advances the word of the military forces. Aided by advanced ADS armor and highly technical M-11 weaponry, the military is able to kill many underwater zombies without fear of infection. The fact that there were no casualties of the DSCC group shows clearly the effectiveness of this unit, and their technologies. Further, the fact that the government wants to track these zombies to



see their movement shows that they firmly believe the situation is controlled, and that the numbers of the underwater undead are dwindling. The final comments of Choi regarding the lack of effectiveness of machines in such missions shows his firm belief, however, that mankind is still needed for zombie battle.

The narrator speaks with Emil Renard, a French national who has left France, never to return, despite the government's requests. He begins by noting that anyone who says their campaign was difficult is lying, if they weren't fighting with the French. He explains this by noting that most of the French war against the zombies was fought underground. With little armor, no gasmasks, and no lights, the military of France fought within the tunnels, catacombs, and other underground passages that covered nearly the entire length of the country. Renard claims that there were over a quarter of a million zombies underneath France. The tunnels, he says, were filled with toxic fumes, sewage, chemicals, and rotting flesh. Small, not conducive to radio transmission, an unlit, the tunnels were a deathtrap for the soldiers. Renard notes that you would hear another squad screaming for help, but would be incapable of finding them in the blackness. Other areas were flooded, so any holes would fill with water, and zombies would attack anyone who happened to fall in.

Renard asks aloud why his government chose to attempt to move so quickly, killing fifteen thousand soldiers in three months. He answers himself by noting that his country needed heroes following their past history of Algeria, Indochina, and the Nazi invasions. The country needed pride, and Renard assumes the military provided that pride. He recounts one battle, that at the Hospital, a Nazi build institution where the French eventually began to throw the infected. Walled in and unable to escape, the zombies survived there until a battalion, unaware of their location, breached the wall. The entire platoon, led by Renard's little brother, were killed in the battle.

This story shows again the theme of governmental misinformation and a lack of preparation. The French military were clearly not armed or prepared for battle in the tunnels of France. Had they been deployed on a slower pace with better armor and better equipment, the soldiers may have had an opportunity to shine. However, as it were, many were killed unnecessarily. While the military eventually cleared the tunnels, the loss of human life was massive. Renard, however, knows the reason for the hurried assault, and understands his country's need for hope and heroes. His brother, who died in battle, clearly also understood this, as he gave his life to become such a hero. Such acts clearly show a dedication to patriotism, and to mankind.

Todd Wainio returns in this section to tell the story of the final battles to save the United States. His descriptions of battle again show the tenacity of the human spirit, as well as the fragility of the mind. Throughout the three-year battle, Wainio tells of many who suffered, from the quislings, who couldn't stand the fear, to the ferals, who knew nothing other than their almost animalistic existence. He tells of the feral animals, whose adaptations to the new world make them fierce predators. He even talks of the church in Kansas, which readers may recall from the story of Sharon in Chapter 3. Finally, he tells many stories of his comrades in arms, whose minds simply broke after years of pressure. Each of these symbolizes yet another victim of war.

However, this section also foreshadows a world more cooperative than the one before. Wainio tells of nations coming together to clear the dead, and of soldiers and leaders of all types and all cultures. Finally, Wainio's closing remarks foreshadow the true end of the zombie war.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

"The Whacko" in Burlington, Vermont, tells the narrator that following the victory in the US, the military forces were given a choice to either go home, or help in other countries. He stops to tell a tree how wonderful of a job it is doing.

In The Holy Russian Empire, Maria Zhuganova says the women of her country are being told to have as many children as possible; she will soon be having her eighth child. Although her nation claims to have found religion, the only one to believe it is clergyman Ryzhkov, who has been thrown out of Moscow. She states the narrator is being used to convey the story of Russia to other countries, so that they may see the country is again strong, and powerful. In Bridgetown, Barbados, in the West Indies Federation, T. Sean Collins admits he is now addicted to killing zombies, being unable to survive in normal society. He tells the narrator he still has hope for a life after the zombies are all dead, but if he cannot function without the zombies, he will likely take his own life.

In Manitoba, Canada, Jesika Hendricks is pulling zombie bodies from the water. She says she doesn't want to place blame, but has a hard time realizing many useless individuals lived while her parents did not. In Troy Montana, Mrs. Miller tells the narrator she and her democracy are to blame for the war. She envies countries such as Russia who claim no responsibility, and notes that her generation caused the war through ignorance and deceit. She hopes the lasting legacy to her children will be that at least this generation cleaned up their own mess. In Chongqing, China, Kwang Jingshu is finishing a house call. He says he is happy to see children again, who were born after the war. They have no fear of zombies, only knowledge and wisdom. He tells the narrator he believes China will rebuild her power, and believes everything will be alright.

In Wenatchee, Washington, Joe Muhammad tells the narrator the war may have been bad, but it did bring the nations together. He admits that it is possible that when the zombies are long dead, humankind will again return to anger and hatred, but he hopes this is not the case. In Taos, New Mexico, Arthur Sinclair's new job is to bring those who are trying to take advantage of the dead to justice. One of his primary tasks is to bring Breckenridge Scott to justice.

In Kyoto, Japan, Kondo Tatsumi is watching Tomonaga Ijiro accept an award as his Shield Society becomes part of the Japanese Self Defense Forces. Tatsumi tells the narrator he may not believe in the spiritual aspects of Tomonaga's faith, but does see that his path is a good path to follow. He remarks that the generation of Tomonaga was happy to rule the world, while his own was happy to let others rule, and both led to destruction. Tatsumi hopes to find a middle road.

In Armagh, Ireland, Philip Adler simply remarks that his country lost more than just people when they abandoned their civilians. In Tel Aviv, Israel, Jurgen Warmbrunn



recalls a pond from his youth that is still gray from the ashes of those killed by the Nazis. He heard once there were no survivors of the Holocaust, because even those that lived died inside because of their experiences. He hopes this is not true, because if it is, no one on Earth survived the zombie war. Aboard the USS Tracy Bowden, Michael Choi tells the narrator the whales, and most other marine life, were the true victims of the war. He reports that no whales exist on the Earth, and that most marine life has been extinguished.

In Denver, Colorado, Todd Wainio admits that at times, he loses his ability to cope. Small things appear to set him off, such as song lyrics or smells. He tells the narrator it is ironic that one of his most vivid memories has become a national icon for victory. The mural on the wall behind him shows the victory at Hero City, but Wainio only remembers watching the sunrise in silence, wondering what lie ahead.

Chapter 8 Analysis

This section brings together some of the most important characters in the novel to explain their whereabouts and thoughts after the war. This section is crucial to tying up the story, and giving readers a chance to see the characters as they are after the war. The "Whacko," once the vice-president of a nation at war, is now a man who is proud to see nations coming together. He still sees responsibility for all mankind as the key to survival.

Maria Zhuganova, the Russian soldier who was forced to participate in the decimation, is now pregnant, serving her country by birthing a new generation. She is against the religious revolution, who she claims is only believed by Ryzhkov, whom readers met in Chapter 7, but she does believe again in the power of her country. This shows a return to patriotism and loyalty following the war. However, the Russian push for children, even orphaned children, shows an alarming return to prewar power struggles and the desire to be one of the top nations. Such a policy suggests the world will not remain at peace.

T. Sean Collins, the mercenary who once protected the wealthy, is now a zombie hunter who has clearly been affected by the war. Unable to return to normal society, he feels he must kill in order to remain sane. His own comments about suicide as an option after all zombies are destroyed shows yet again the tragic consequences on the mind after war.

The stories of Jesika Hendricks, whose parents saved her life through cannibalism, and Mrs. Miller, the mother of three who was too wrapped up in life to see the oncoming crisis, show two sides of the same theme, that of blame. On one hand, Hendricks blames the government for her current situation, as well as for her parents' death. On the other hand, Mrs. Miller blames herself, as part of the democratic machine that allowed the crisis to occur in the first place. Both are important to the story, since blame is such a vital theme throughout the novel.

Kwang Jingshu, the doctor who discovered Patient Zero, symbolizes a return to optimism following the war. Previously in the novel, Jingshu was a realist. As his



statements in this section show, however, he has regained confidence in China, as well as in mankind. Joe Muhammad, the disabled volunteer, feels the same, that mankind has evolved, and hopes they will remain as such. Both characters show again the strength of the human spirit. Arthur Sinclair, once the leader of DeStRes, is now a money cop. His determination, clear throughout the novel, has not wavered, as one can see by his determination to bring Breckenridge Scott to justice. His statements of a growing economy foreshadow a recovery for the US, and the world.

The acceptance of Tomonaga Ijiro, the blind gardener, as a part of the Japanese military shows another consequence of war, that of acceptance. Tatsumi, the teenage outsider, while still a non-believer, admits that perhaps Tomonaga has found the right road for Japan, that of a combination of rule and peace. This concept, along with the new status of Ijiro, shows a drastic change in Japanese thinking following the war.

Philip Adler, the soldier forced to leave civilians behind in Germany, and Jurgen Warmbrunn, co-author of the Warmbrunn-Knight report, both speak of their feelings of guilt. Adler believes his country left not only the people, but also the pride and nobility of the country behind as the military abandoned the citizens. Warmbrunn, too, believes the people of the world have lost much in the war, including their inner selves. Both men, noble in their beliefs throughout the war, are clearly left with guilt over their actions, and the actions of their countries.

Michael Choi, the diver who battles underwater zombies, shows deep emotion for the loss of marine life in this section. As a water lover, Choi realizes many of the Earth's largest, most gentle creatures are victims of the war, having been entirely wiped out. His feelings for humanity are clearly not as passionate as his feelings for the animal life, and one is led to believe this is due to the lack of blame on the animals. Whereas the people of the world caused the war, the marine life felt the consequences.

Finally, Todd Wainio is now married, and living a normal life. As one of the most loveable, noble, and honest characters of the novel, Wainio's statements are a perfect ending to the novel. Although still clearly scarred by the war, Wainio has attempted to return to normal life. He still has unstable moments, and still dreams of his journey through the war. However, his lasting memory of Hero City has become a sign of victory for the country, and while his emotions about the incident may differ from those who celebrate the day, it was his actions, and the actions of those selfless individuals all over the world who fought against the zombies, that allowed the world to regain peace.



Characters

Narrator

The narrator of the story is a man who worked previously as a researcher for the United Nation's Postwar Commission, and was given the task of collecting information after the war, to provide a collection of factual data that could be used as a future reference for those looking into the apocalypse of the war. He is surprised, however, to find nearly half his work deleted from the final product, due to its nature of being too influenced by the "human factor." The narrator's boss tells him to go write a book, if he is so concerned with presenting the emotional side of the conflict and this novel is the result. As a narrator, he is factual, in that his questions to the characters of the novel show high levels of research. He is also honest, sometimes to the point of being brutal in his quest to write the truth about the war. His questions to characters in the novel lead them to tell their own personal stories of war. He promises in the beginning of the novel to keep his own personal feelings out of the piece, and he does quite well at this task. Throughout the novel, however, it is clear through his descriptions of his interviewees as well as through his questions that he does have strong feelings about the war, and about the responsibility and blame of the persons he interviews. The narrator is a strong character in the novel who has a very defined sense of right and wrong. His choices for interviewees, individuals from all classes and all areas of the world, show a true desire to tell the entire story of the zombie war, from the first instances to the final battles. His structure and form carry readers from one country to another, but do so in a nearly seamless manner, allowing the reader to piece together his or her own viewpoints and opinions.

Zombie / Zach / G

While unable to be interviewed, the zombie creatures of the story are some of the most important characters, since the entire novel is written based on the attempt of mankind to kill them. Sometimes referred to as G, or Zack, the zombies are described by several in the novel. These creatures are, obviously, the walking dead, or those who have perished and have reanimated. They thirst for blood and destruction. However, they are slow and have little to no intelligence to speak of. They are a mindless force, but are ruthless in numbers. Tearing flesh from living humans, these creatures can quickly kill hundreds in any given area. Their blood is a black or brown ooze after they reanimate and they moan loudly when prey is near. They have a shuffling gait and can survive anything other than the destruction of the brain, making killing them highly difficult. Typical military weapons do nothing but create zombies with no arms or legs who continue to hunt living humans and animals. Their flesh is toxic, and their cells seem to freeze in even the slightest winter. However, as spring thaws the ground, the zombies reanimate again to restart the cycle. Their bite, regardless of severity, will kill any human, and turn them into zombies, as well. Their origin appears to stem from China, where a young boy fishing with his father was bitten, and soon died, only to reanimate



soon after. This first case, or Patient Zero, is unproven, but is recorded by the narrator and many others as the first known cause of an outbreak. Through organ trafficking, travel, human smugglers, and simple bites, the "plague" spreads over the entire world, creating millions of the walking dead.

Todd Wainio

Todd Wainio is one of the most poignant characters in the story, and one of the most interviewed. Now married and living in Colorado with his son and wife, Todd was a soldier for the US military during the zombie war. He is a young man, but the stress of war has aged him. He is smaller, with a paunch stomach, receding gray hair, and three deep scars along his face. As a soldier, Wainio saw both the darkest and the brightest days of the war. His stories tell of his first large battle with the zombies, in which he and his team were woefully unprepared with the wrong armor and weapons, and where his entire battalion was wiped out. He tells another story, this time of hope, as he and his men fought the battle against zombies and won the freedom of the United States. His stories are full of description, and full of a passion only a soldier who had seen the fighting could describe.

Wainio's character is one of the average American soldier in times of war. His mannerisms, language, and way of speech all show not only his courage as a soldier, but his clear sense of morality and righteousness. His dedication to his country is unquestionable, as is his compassion for other human beings. While he shows no remorse for his role in the war, he has no issues with placing blame with poor planning of military leaders, and shows a high level of concern and care for his soldiers. He is proud of his accomplishments, but shows the mental and physical scars of a long, hard battle for freedom.

Kwang Jingshu

Kwang Jingshu is presented early in the novel as the doctor who first discovered the outbreak of the plague in China. He is an older gentleman who still manages to make house calls to remote areas of China that have no running water and very little after war support. His character is one of kindness, generosity, and a desire to help humanity. He is honest, in that he admits his own faults to himself, but it is this honesty that allows him to see the situation as what it is: a worldwide disaster waiting to happen. He calls his daughter to warn her, showing strong family values.

Jurgen Warmbrunn

Jurgen Warmbrunn is a serious man with a love of Ethiopian food. He has bright pink skin, unruly eyebrows, and reminds many of an "Einstein" character. However, he is in fact a spy, or was in his youth. While his character is not a primary player within the novel, his actions certainly are. After rumors of the plague begin, Warmbrunn digs for the truth, and finds several instances of eye witness accounts. By piecing together



these stories, Warmbrunn comes up with a plan to save the human race, and rid the world of zombies. He and fourteen other men and women create what is later reference as the "Warmbrunn Knight" report, which details how the world can survive the war. However, few countries heed the warning, and as a result, the plague rapidly becomes worldwide.

Warmbrunn has decisive feelings about the response of the world to the report. While he understands why many chose the "South African War Plan" or the Redeker Plan, he also points out several times that had the world heeded his report, a war report would not have been needed. His statements at the end of the novel show his concern for the survivors of the war, in terms of their ability to cope. His efforts in writing a report to save mankind from an epidemic show not only his dedication to his own country, but for all people in all nations.

Travis D'Ambrosia

As a high member of the military, one would expect D'Ambrosia to be sympathetic to the plight of the military forces. On the contrary, D'Ambrosia places all blame for the outbreak on the military forces and governments of the world, and his stories are filled with a sadness and guilt that is clear through his unwillingness to make eye contact. His survival plan, much like the "Warmbrunn Knight" report, would have saved the United States from certain demise. After pushing forward, he is appalled to find only one phase of a two part plan in action. D'Ambrosia is disenchanted with the handling of the outbreaks, and displays a comprehensible understanding of the causes of the breakdown of forces within the world at the time. His comments about the ease of Phase One which entailed only killing existing zombies in comparison to Phase Two, which involved a firm commitment to prevention, symbolizes the common problems in a democratic society in terms of military force. Throughout the novel, several other interviewed people mention D'Ambrosia as a man of truth, logic, and intellect. His plans for military action both here and abroad are hailed as highly useful and trusted.

Breckinridge

As one of the most disturbing characters in the story, Scott is a hated man throughout the world. Following an incorrect naming of the plague "African rabies," Scott and his business partners develop the Phalanx, a vaccine for rabies. Knowing the product won't work, and knowing his false drug is causing death, Scott nonetheless continues his quest for money, regardless of the cost to human life. His character is clearly at ease with himself, and blames only the consumer, who he believes is at fault for being stupid enough to take the vaccine. His character in the novel represents those individuals in any crisis who prey on the hopes and weaknesses of human kind to make themselves wealthy or powerful. As a coward, he has fled to the Antarctic, and lives in complete solitude.



Xolelwa Azania (Paul Redeker)

As one of the most interesting characters in the novel, Redeker, a.k.a. Azania, is the man who invented the Redeker Plan. He is both one of the most loved men in the world, since his plan for war possibly saved the human race, and the most hated, since his plan also called for the death of several million people. Across the world, countries put a plan into action where some humans were used as human bait for zombies, while others were saved. Redeker is described as dispassionate about everything, and therefore able to write alternative solutions to world problems others would avoid. Some, according to Azania, think of Redeker as evil, racist, and inhumane, while others see him as an invaluable source of intellect. After his presentation of the war plan to leaders, Azania says Redeker disappeared. However, readers learn Azania is truly Redeker. Whether he hides his identity to protect himself, or whether he was broken by his own actions is up to the reader to decide.

Joe Muhammad

Joe Muhammad does not play a primary role in the novel, but his character represents one of the most vital themes of the novel, that of the strength of the human spirit. With an easy smile and broad shoulders, his character is very likable. He is now a bicycle shop owner by day, and a metal artist by night. Muhammad is a disabled man in a wheelchair who volunteered for patrol within the early survival camps in the US. Originally told he could not join, Muhammad fought for his right to help his country. His tales of patrolling through the evening, frightened but determined, are a testament to the strength of his character, and of the thousands of others like him who joined the fight to save the world.

Christina Eliopolis / Mets

As one of the few female characters of the novel, Eliopolis is a strong-willed pilot for the US Navy. Her small frame, delicate features, and long black hair are deceiving, as she is well known for both her outstanding record and her temper. Her story of a crash landing, the fight of zombies, and a night of terror are testaments to her strength as well as her will to survive. However, it is her belief in a ham operator named Mets that makes her character more outstanding. During her escape, she claims to have been helped by Mets, but upon her return to civilization, the military can find no record or trace of the woman. Mets is presented as an extension of Eliopolis herself, designed by her own mind to help her escape her horrifying situation. This character shows compassion when Eliopolis requires it, as well as a strong determination for survival when Eliopolis loses her own. This combined character shows the fragility of the human mind in hostile situations, as well as the length the human mind will go in order to ensure safety.

Kondo Tatsumi and Tomonga Ijiro

As two characters in the novel, these Japanese men symbolize the changing order of the world following the war. Tatsumi was an outsider in Japan who chose to live his entire life within cyberspace. Ijiro, on the other hand, was a blind man, both pitied and shunned by the population. In both cases, these men fought through zombies as well as nature to save their own lives, and use their experiences to help others to learn self-defense and tactics of survival. Allowed back into society at the end of the novel, these characters clearly represent the new order of the world, as those once cast out are welcomed back as strong members of the worldwide community.



Objects/Places

World War Z / The Zombie War / The Crisis/ The Dark Years/ T

These are various names for the World War between zombies and living humans.

New Dachang

A small village in China where the first outbreak of the plague is believed to have occurred.

Patient Zero

A small boy in New Dachang believed to be the first victim of the plague.

Rabies / African Rabies / Walking Plague

These are various names applied to the disease that causes humans to die and turn into zombies.

The Panic

A period in the war between the initial outbreaks and the military attacks against the zombies. During this crisis, civilians began to panic and attempted to flee infected areas, creating mass hysteria, as well as many deaths.

Warmbrunn-Knight report

This was a plan, developed by Paul Knight and fifteen other individuals, to contain the plague. The plan consisted of two Phases. The first was to use Special Forces to clear heavily infested areas, while Phase Two detailed a mass military force to destroy the zombies, while saving the living citizens.

The South African War Plan / Redeker Plan

The "Redeker Plan" began with the consolidation of all military forces to a secure safe zone, which would then be defended. A specific portion of the civilian population could then be evacuated to the safe zone to provide a labor force and a governmental force. Those left behind would be herded into an isolated zone to act as human bait. This



population would serve to draw the undead to specific areas, so the remaining, protected civilians and military force could be saved.

Phalanx / vaccine

This was the name of the drug Breckinridge "Breck" Scott developed to make a profit from the outbreak. The vaccine was developed specifically for rabies, which Scott knew was not the actual disease infecting the planet.

Feral children

This is the term used to describe children left orphaned following the outbreak.

Prochnow Plan

This is the German version of the Redeker Plan.

Chang Doctrine

South Korea's version of the Redeker Plan.

DeStRes

A new government department, called Department of Strategic Resources, responsible for creating a new civilization in America.

PTSD

The term used to describe the mental breakdown of many during the war, also known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Standard Infantry Entrenchment Tool

A steel rod with a shovel handle and a double bladed axe mounted on the end, also called a Lobotomizer, was invented by soldiers, and was mass produced as one of the most effective weapons in the war.



Yonkers

A town to the north of New York where the US military attempted to first take on a large amount of zombies. The supposed show of force failed miserably, and most soldiers lost their lives.

Three Gorges Dam

A dam in China that broke during the outbreak and released ten trillion gallons of water, killing millions who were hiding from the zombies.

hibakusha

A term reserved for those in Japan who lost their eyesight after witnessing the atomic bomb drops during World War II.

Baby-Ls

A pain reliever issued by the military used as a sleeping aid during World War Z.

BDU

The BDU, or Battle Dress Uniform, was made of Kevlar, and resembled a lightweight coverall with an optional hood, face cover, and gloves. This new uniform, designed for zombie fighting, saved several military personnel during the war.

Hope, New Mexico

The stage for the first strike against the zombies following the revamping of the US military.

quisling

A healthy human who, because of mental instability, pretends to act like a zombie.



Themes

Deceit

The ramifications of lies and deceit are a common theme within many novels, but this novel takes the concept a bit further than most. In *World War Z*, the lies and deceit of individuals, government officials, the military, and even parents and simple civilians create a worldwide plague that kills millions of innocent individuals. First, the government of China attempted to cover up a clearly deadly disease, both from the rest of the world and even from its own people. Additionally, illegal organ donations and illegal human trafficking from and within China by people such as Nury Televaldi and Fernando Oliveira assisted the plague in its rapid spread. Had the government of China warned the public, these activities could have been stopped, and the plague could have been contained.

As the plague reached other countries, however, many governments reacted in the same way, resulting in a worldwide epidemic. Even the government of the United States and other "first world" countries used lies and deceit to cover up the disease. In addition, the medical community, pharmaceutical corporations, and again, government officials, furthered the deceit as they discovered the disease, but continued to hide it. Breckinridge "Breck" Scott and government officials such as Grover Carlson not only covered up the disease, but used it to make themselves more powerful. Between drugs created knowingly ineffective against the disease and the attempts in government to higher their political power through the disease, the spread of disease was made possible by the lies and deception. As the plague progressed, government and military officials continued to lie to their populations by telling them the plague was under control, and by not providing the information that would help citizens fight back effectively. As military forces were withdrawn to safety, the populations were left believing they would return, only to find themselves abandoned. Individuals such as Kondo Tatsumi and Mrs. Miller lied to themselves until it was nearly too late. It was not until the damage was done that all parties began working together, forgoing the deceit to plan for victory against the zombie forces. By lying to themselves and to one another, the government, military, medical, and civilian populations of the world nearly caused their own demise.

Responsibility

This novel discusses many aspects of responsibility, and it is a primary theme throughout. Whether the context of the message is that some individuals deny responsibility they should live up to, or whether it is that some accept responsibility for situations over which they have no control, this theme presents its self in nearly all stories. In terms of those who do not accept responsibility, "Breck" Scott and Grover Carlson are wonderful examples. These individuals claim to take no responsibility in the spread of the disease, even though their actions caused millions to perish. Military



officials claimed their actions were intended to save their populations by avoiding panic, but their actions created far more panic than what was necessary, simply because of their lack of information distribution. On the other hand, individuals such as the IR operators of Radio Free Earth, Jurgen Warmbrunn, and Travis D'Ambrosia take on blame for the situation that they had no direct control over. The IR operators, unable to respond to cries for help, ended up committing suicide because of their guilt levels. Jurgen Warmbrunn blames himself for the government's rejection of his disease plan, even though he attempted to the best of his ability to warn them. Travis D'Ambrosia, one of the finest military officials within the novel, still carries much guilt over his assumed rejection of responsibility, even though his actions helped save millions. From the beginning of the war through the Panic and the Total War phases, some individuals were able to reject their responsibility, while others were destroyed by it.

Strength of the Human Sprit

Perhaps the primary theme in the novel, the concept of the strength of the human spirit, or the lack thereof, is present in many of the stories. Todd Wainio, the US soldier, Maria Zhuganova, the Russian soldier, Joe Muhammad, the disabled civilian, and Kondo Tatsumi and Tomonga Ijiro, the Japanese outcasts, all show an amazing amount of strength throughout the novel. Their characters are hard, but filled with a sense of purpose and loyalty to their countries, and to their fellow man. Their actions during battle are only a part of their strength. It is their ability to survive horrible circumstances, not without scars, but with a sense of pride in those scars that shows their true courage. Their will to live, combined with a true and honest desire to save the planet combine to make these characters endure what others in the story could not.

In addition, there are several stories of those who may have lost their strength, but found a way to go on in spite of that fact. Christina Eliopolis, the US Navy pilot, loses her ability to focus when put into a highly dangerous situation. However, she manages to make it through the ordeal with the help of "Mets," which reads are led to believe is a separate personality of Eliopolis'. Unable to focus her consciousness, Eliopolis invents Mets to help her find her inner power. While some would believe this to show a lack of capability, in truth, it shows a true strength, in that she was able to return to herself. Xolelwa Azania, a.k.a. Paul Redeker, shows a similar strength. While Redeker was able to ignore personal emotion in favor of logic, he is unable to live with the consequences of those actions. In order to implement his plan, Redeker becomes Azania, the man responsible for implementing the Redeker Plan that saved the world, but killed millions. Again, although some may see this as cowardice, it can also be seen as a true act of strength in an effort to save the planet. On the other hand, there are those who show a severe lack of strength in terms of the human spirit. Many during the war committed suicide, died from Asymptomatic Demise Syndrome, or simply ran away from their problems. These individuals, while shown in a sympathetic light, simply lacked the same strength of spirit that those who survived held. Clearly, the strength of the human spirit played a large part in the ability to win, and survive, the war.



Technological Advancement

While somewhat hidden, this theme appears in several portions of the novel. The author presents the topic in a unique way, in that he seems to urge a regression of technology throughout the novel. In terms of weaponry, the military uses all the advanced weapons possible against the zombie forces, and finds these weapons have no value. However, when they resort to swords, Lobos, and other less modern weaponry, their actions are rewarding.

Allen Forbes, who describes the story of Windsor castle, is another character symbolic of the advantage of a regression in technology. He and other British fighters found ancient castles to be the perfect refuge during the war, even though more modern buildings were accessible.

Kondo Tatsumi, a master of the internet, is nearly destroyed by his dependence on technological advancement, and is only safe because of his use of a sword, and his intelligence. Additionally, Tomonga Ijiro survives only through the use of survival skills in the wilderness. In fact, many in the novel survive not because of technology, but because they fled to areas with little or no technologies that were northern areas. Forced to fend for themselves, they learned skills needed to live. The survival centers in the United States show this return to older technology as well. By recycling modern weapons to create older rifles, teaching individuals to farm and raise animals, and through the use of less advanced communications, soldiers and other individuals are able to regain control. This is not to say the author notes all technology as useless. The astronaut Terry Knox's role in keeping satellites up and running was vital to the war effort. Radio Free Earth, the broadcasting of survival tactics and useful information, was also vital to the war. The point, then, appears to be that a mix of modern technologies and ancient technologies are the perfect blend of scientific prowess and moral reliance, and that it is only through the blending of ideas that any race is able to sustain themselves, and survive.

Style

Point of View

The author uses a combination of first and third person perspectives throughout the novel. For much of the novel, the narrator simply writes the words of individuals involved in the war as they are spoken, providing the reader with a first person perspective of the war against the zombies, as well as of the horrors of war. These stories show the best and worst of the characters as their own words show their true personalities. This point of view is important to the novel since one of the most important themes is the human response to war. There could not be the dramatic impact of the war, or its consequences, if not for the first person thoughts and emotions of these characters. Additionally, because the individuals recounting their experiences are presented in first person, the reader is given a distinct feeling of authenticity, making their experiences all the more moving.

In other portions of the novel, however, the stories involve tales of individuals other than the characters telling the stories. This method is generally reserved for the tales of heroism throughout the novel, as the characters being spoken of have often already perished in the war. These stories are vital to the plot, however, to show the other side of war, that of the greatness war is capable of producing in human kind. Without these third person accounts of those who gave their life in the war, their stories would be impossible to present, leaving the reader without vital information about these triumphant individuals.

Setting

The setting of the book is Planet Earth. The locations of the stories span the globe, and include areas within China, South Africa, the United States, South America, the Arctic, Germany, Japan, Korea, and even the open ocean. The vast collection of locations used in the novel serve to show the outbreak of the disease was worldwide. Further, the use of so many locations allows the author to compare and contrast the responses to the plague by the civilians and government authorities in various countries. Because a main theme in the novel is that of responsibility for the war, the high number of locations also allows the author to show how the spread of disease was made possible by the various individuals in all locations.

In addition, the use of several areas of the world allows the author to compare and contrast the cultures of individuals as they battle the zombie forces. These comparisons include climate, weather conditions, socioeconomic conditions, issues of racism and classism, and mental ability to withstand change, as well as those of family values and political situations. Without such comparisons, the reader would not gain the important insight into the reasons some cultures reacted differently to the war.



Language and Meaning

The language of this novel tends to range from overly emotional to cold and factual, effectively transitioning between the characters telling their own stories. Each character speaks in different style, providing an authentic feel as the author changes from one person to the next. This is not a hindrance in the novel, but instead adds an element of personalization to each story. This depth of character is vital to understanding the nature of each person telling a story, and their characteristics.

Much of the military personnel in the story speak in highly technical terms, providing a feeling that these individuals are trained well in weapons, armor, and the art of war. However, the personnel of smaller, less formal military regiments clearly speak in a less technical term, providing a difference in even these similar characters that reflects the culture of the individual. Civilians, as well, speak in different tones and verbiage throughout the novel, and with greater and lesser degrees of emotion, as is characteristic of each person's culture. This transition between both language and terminology allows an even finer definition of character.

There are many terms used throughout the novel that require definition by the narrator. In some cases, these terms are in other languages, such as Chinese or German, and in other cases, these terms are abbreviations for technical military terms. The author's use of footnotes in these cases is vital to understanding the story, since many of these terms are important to the plot line being presented. Further, by including such terminology, the author again adds authenticity to the character's personalities and origins.

Structure

This novel is comprised of an introduction and eight chapters. Within each chapter, however, are between three and ten individual stories, each of a different character and with different focuses. The chapters are broken into subjects that chronologically follow the path of the zombie war. The stories within the chapters tend to be short in length, but full of both hidden and blunt meaning. The novel is 342 pages in length.

The plot of the novel is extremely complex, dealing with a multitude of themes. The material is presented in such a way as to show the reader the experiences of all involved in any war, including civilians, soldiers, military leaders, governmental entities, businesses, and even children. Additionally, within the context of each group, several different socioeconomic and cultural perspectives are presented, allowing the author to give a world wide view of the war.

The novel's pace is highly varied, ranging from slow descriptions of wartime executions to fast paced narrative of narrow escapes. The story line, ranging from flashback type story telling to current defense of previous actions, is sometimes difficult to follow. However, the narrator's questions to the characters, interspersed through each story, help to keep the reader on track, and able to discern the time period in which the story is being told.



Quotes

"It goes by many names: "The Crisis," "The Dark Years," "The Walking Plague," as well as newer and more hip titles such as "World War Z" or "Z War One." I personally dislike this last moniker as it implies an inevitable "Z War Two." For me, it will always be "The Zombie War," and while many may protest the scientific accuracy of the word zombie, they will be hard-pressed to discover a more globally accepted term for the creatures that almost caused our extinction. Zombie remains a devastating word, unrivaled in its power to conjure up so many memories or emotions, and it is these memories and emotions that are the subject of this book." Narrator, Introduction, p. 1.

"Evaluation...that's what happens when it's your own side. It's only "interrogation" when it's the enemy. They teach you how to resist the enemy, how to protect your mind and spirit. They don't teach you how to resist your own people, especially people who think they're trying to "help" you see "the truth." They didn't break me, I broke myself. I wanted to believe them and I wanted them to help me. I was a good soldier, well trained, experienced; I knew what I could do to my fellow human beings, and what they could do to me. I thought I was ready for anything." Stanley MacDonald, Chapter 1, Warnings, p. 21.

"In totalitarian regimes - communism, fascism, religious fundamentalism - popular support is a given. You can start wars, you can prolong them, you can put anyone in uniform for any length of time without ever having to worry about the slightest political backlash. In a democracy, the polar opposite is true. Public support must be husbanded as a finite national resource. It must be spent wisely, sparingly, and with the greatest return on your investment. America is especially sensitive to war weariness, and nothing brings on a backlash like the perception of defeat." Travis D'Ambrosia, Chapter 2, Blame, p. 52.

"All I did was what any of us are ever supposed to do. I chased my dream and I got my slice. You wanna blame someone, blame whoever first called it rabis, or who knew it wasn't rabis and gave us the green light anyway. Shit, you wanna blame someone, why not start with all the sheep who forked over their greenbacks without bothering to do a little responsible research. I never held a gun to their heads. They made the choice themselves. They're the bad guys, not me. I never directly hurt anybody, and if anybody was too stupid to get themselves hurt, boo-fuckin-hoo." Breck Scott, Chapter 2, Blame, p. 58.

"Brilliance. Conventional executions might have reinforced discipline, might have restored order from the top down, but by making us all accomplices, they held us together not just by fear, but by guilt as well. We could have said no, could have refused and been shot ourselves, but we didn't. We went right along with it. We all made a conscious choice and because that choice carried such a high price, I don't think anyone ever wanted to make another one again. We relinquished our freedom that day, and we were more than happy to see it go. From that moment on we lived in true freedom, the freedom to point to someone else and say "They told me to do it! It's their



fault, not mine." The freedom, God help us, to say "I was only following orders." Maria Zhuganova, Chapter 3, *The Great Panic*, p. 83.

"Sure, we were unprepared, our tools, our training, everything I just talked about, all one class-A, gold-standard clusterfuck, but the weapon that really failed wasn't something that rolled off an assembly line. It's as old as...I don't know, I guess as old as war. It's fear, dude, just fear, and you don't have to be Sun freakin' Tzu to know that real fighting isn't about killing or even hurting the other guy, it's about scaring him enough to call it a day." Paul Wainio, Chapter 3, *The Great Panic*, p. 103.

"Remember what I said about beholden to your conscience? You can't blame anyone else, not the plan's architect, not your commanding officer, no one but yourself. You have to make your own choices and live every agonizing day with the consequences of those choices. He knew this. That's why he deserted us like we deserted those civilians. He saw the road ahead, a steep, treacherous mountain road. We'd all have to hike that road, each of us dragging the boulder of what we'd done behind us. He couldn't do it. He couldn't shoulder the weight." Philip Adler, Chapter 4, *Turning the Tide*, p. 116.

"Oh c'mon. Can you ever solve poverty? Can you ever solve crime? Can you ever solve disease, unemployment, war, or any other societal herpes? Hell no. All you can hope for is to make them manageable enough to allow people to get on with their lives. That's not cynicism, that's maturity. You can't stop the rain. All you can do it just build a roof that you hope won't leak, or at least leak on the people who are gonna vote for you." Grover Calson, Chapter 2, *Blame*, p. 61.

"It's okay. You can say it. Yes, they were lies and sometimes that's not a bad thing. Lies are neither bad nor good. Like a fire they can either keep you warm or burn you to death, depending on how they're used. The lies our government told us before the war, the ones that were supposed to keep us happy and blind, those were the ones that burned, because they prevented us from doing what had to be done. However, by the time I made Avalon, everyone was already doing everything they could possibly do to survive. The lies of the past were long gone, and now the truth was everywhere, shambling down their streets, crashing through their doors, clawing at their throats. The truth was that no matter what we did, chances were most of us, if not all of us, were never going to see the future. The truth was that we were standing at what might be the twilight of our species and that truth was freezing a hundred people to death every night. They needed something to keep them warm. And so I lied, and so did the president, and every doctor and priest, every platoon leader and every parent." Roy Elliott, Chapter 5, *Homefront USA*, p. 166.

"The living dead had taken more from us than land and loved ones. They'd robbed us of our confidence as the planet's dominant life form. We were a shaken, broken species, driven to the edge of extinction and grateful only for a tomorrow with perhaps a little less suffering than today. Was this the legacy we would leave for our children, a level of anxiety and self-doubt not seen since our simian ancestors cowered in the tallest trees? What kind of world would they rebuild? Would they rebuild at all? Could they continue to progress, knowing that they had been powerless to reclaim their future? And what if that



future saw another rise of the living dead? Would our descendants rise to meet them in battle, or simply crumple in meek surrender and accept what they believe to be their inevitable extinction? For this reason alone, we had to reclaim our planet. We had to prove to ourselves that we could do it, and leave that proof as this war's greatest monument. The long, hard road back to humanity, or the regressive ennui of Earth's once proud primates. That was the choice, and it had to be made now." President of the United States, Chapter 6, *Around the World and Above*, p. 267.

"There was another reason for this partial evacuation, an eminently logical and insidiously dark reason that, many believe, will forever ensure Redeker the tallest pedestal in the pantheon of hell. Those who were left behind were to be herded into special isolated zones. They were to be "human bait," distracting the undead from following the retreating army to their safe zone. Redeker argued that these isolated, uninfected refugees must be kept alive, well defended and even resupplied, if possible, as to keep the undead hordes firmly rooted to the spot. You see the genius, the sickness?" Paul Redeker, Chapter 4, *Turning the Tide*, p. 109.

"I've heard it said that the Holocaust has no survivors, that even those who managed to remain technically alive were so irreparably damaged, that their spirit, their soul, the person that they were supposed to be, was gone forever. I'd like to think that's not true. But if it is, then no one on Earth survived this war." Jurgen Warmbrunn, Chapter 8, *Good-Byes*, p. 340.



Topics for Discussion

Throughout the novel, the author blames several entities for the worldwide outbreak, including civilians, the government, the military, illegal smugglers, and the medical professionals. Explain the role each of these entities played in the outbreak, and discuss what actions each could have taken to help avoid the worldwide epidemic.

In Chapter Four, Turning the Tide, the governments of several countries implement forms of the Redeker Plan, which involve the killing of several thousand innocent individuals in an effort to end the outbreak. Explain each version of the plan. Do you believe these actions were justified? Explain your answer in detail, using examples from the novel.

There are several references throughout the novel to real-world events, such as the "Shock and Awe" campaign of the United States against Iraq, the military recruitment game "American Army," the pullout of Israel from the west bank, and several others. Name six references within the novel to real world events, and explain why you believe the author included each reference. What purpose do such references serve?

While the novel follows the path of a fictitious war, there are several themes throughout the book that apply to any war, even those that have occurred in our past history. Choose three of these themes, and discuss the similarities between the novel and real-life past events.

In Chapter Three, The Great Panic, the author interviews several individuals who explain in great detail their experiences during the panic. There are additional references throughout the novel that discuss the effect panic has on given populations. What role do you believe the panic played in the spread of the disease? Do you believe the Great Panic could have been avoided? How? Be sure to explain your answer with details from the book.

In Chapter Two, Blame, the interviewer questions Breckinridge Scott, the developer of the vaccine "Phalanx." Do you believe Scott holds any responsibility for the outbreak, or do you believe Scott is accurate in his belief that he had a right to capitalize on the situation? Explain your answer.

There are many instances of heroism from both ordinary citizens as well as military personnel throughout the novel. Discuss four accounts of this heroism. Why do you think these individuals helped others, even at the cost of their own lives?

There are several stories in the book that discuss the frailty of the human psychological condition, including the story of Paul Redeker, Christina Eliopolis, and several others. Discuss three of these in-depth. Do you believe these individuals experienced a break in reality due to their inability to cope, or do you believe their psychological breakdowns were simply tools used to cope with the crisis at hand? Explain your answer using examples from the novel.



At the end of the novel, several individuals question whether humanity really won the war, or if the lasting psychological, physical, and emotional damage caused by the conflict have changed the world forever. What do you think? In addition, what do you believe Max Brooks, the author, is trying to say about the effects of war? Be sure to use examples from the book to support your opinions.