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*The Socialist Patriot: George Orwell and War* is a new work written by the academic Peter Stansky. In this study, Stansky seeks to analyze how George Orwell was shaped by the various wars that occurred throughout his life. Stansky does this by synthesizing Orwell's own works, published and unpublished, with other scholarly works concerning Orwell's life and views.

Stansky is well suited to undertake this study of Orwell. As noted in the preface of the book, Stansky earned his first undergraduate degree at Yale University and his second undergraduate degree at King's College Cambridge. He would later go on to earn a PhD at Harvard University. Stansky specializes in modern British history as well as British intellectual history. Stansky is also a professor of history emeritus at Stanford University. Some of Stansky's selected works include *The Unknown Orwell* (1972), *Orwell: The Transformation* (1980), and *Gladstone: A Progress in Politics* (1979).

*The Socialist Patriot: George Orwell and War* is divided into five chapters, each dealing with a different war: Orwell before the First World War, Orwell during the First World War, Orwell in the Spanish Civil War, Orwell during the Second World War, and Orwell during the Cold War. Each chapter seeks to show how his view on war changed through various stages in his life. Stansky is able to marshal evidence that supports his assertions that Orwell resided in an English intellectual movement of English radicals who sought to change England while conforming to a mythologized English cultural past.

Stansky as well is able to paint a clear picture of Orwell during each war. Stanksy first narrates how Orwell during the First World War was blindly patriotic as he was only a child who was enrolled in the young officers training programs.
He then pivots to detailing how Orwell had his socialist beliefs entrenched during the ideological confrontation that was the Spanish Civil War where he worked as a journalist and later fought in an international brigade. In that war in particular, Stansky notes how Orwell's firsthand experience with the various anarchist and socialist groups crystallized his belief in socialism as the ideal form of governance. Stansky continues with the Second World War and notes how Orwell soon became disillusioned with socialism under Joseph Stalin while working for the BBC. Finally, during the Cold War, Stansky notes how Orwell worked to define his own views of socialism, patriotism combined with socialist ideals.

This work is designed for scholars of George Orwell. The specificity of the work combined with the in-depth discussion of Orwell's life and views makes this study a fine addition to Orwellian scholarship. The book does have value outside of this framework, that value being it provides an interesting view of the development of socialist ideas through an English lens by a prominent English intellectual, but its main value comes from the fact it is designed to be used in tandem with other works that deal with George Orwell.

While the organization of the book is well done, a lack of bibliography hinders scholars who might want to potentially use this book. Instead of a bibliography, Stansky opts to use full in-text citations with shortened citations for works he repeatedly mentions. This makes it difficult for academics who would be using this work to follow up on the evidence that Stansky provides. As well, the text of the work, while very well written, can be hard to follow, as Stansky does not vary his sentence structure often. This leads to very long sentences that readers can become lost in.

Despite these minor issues, Stansky's work achieves its goal of showing how war shaped George Orwell's views. The Socialist Patriot: George Orwell and War is a book that scholars of Orwell will greatly appreciate, as it allows them to see how Orwell became the literary titan that has dominated modern thinking since the late 1940s and early 1950s. While such scholars are the primary audience, other academics can gain an appreciation for the development of British intellectual history and how it was shaped by events occurring the around the world.