

Peace Kills – America's Fun New Imperialism by P.J. O'Rourke.
Atlantic Books 2004.

P.J.O'Rourke is one of the funniest and cleverest writers in America today, and Peace Kills shows him to be at the top of his form.

With his customary wit and sharp satirical eye, O'Rourke travels with his pen through the world's trouble spots, principally the Balkans and the Middle East, and as he observes so he paints a verbal picture which in a few pages more effectively sums up the situation in question than the reams expended by the newspapers and other media.

Most of the 10 articles in Peace Kills were previously published in The Atlantic magazine and are gathered here for the first time. This is a formidable collection and some particularly stay in the mind, not least the chapters entitled Why Americans Hate Foreign Policy, 9/11 Diary and the Postscript on Iwo Jima.

Whatever your politics this is a thought-provoking collection to savour.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh