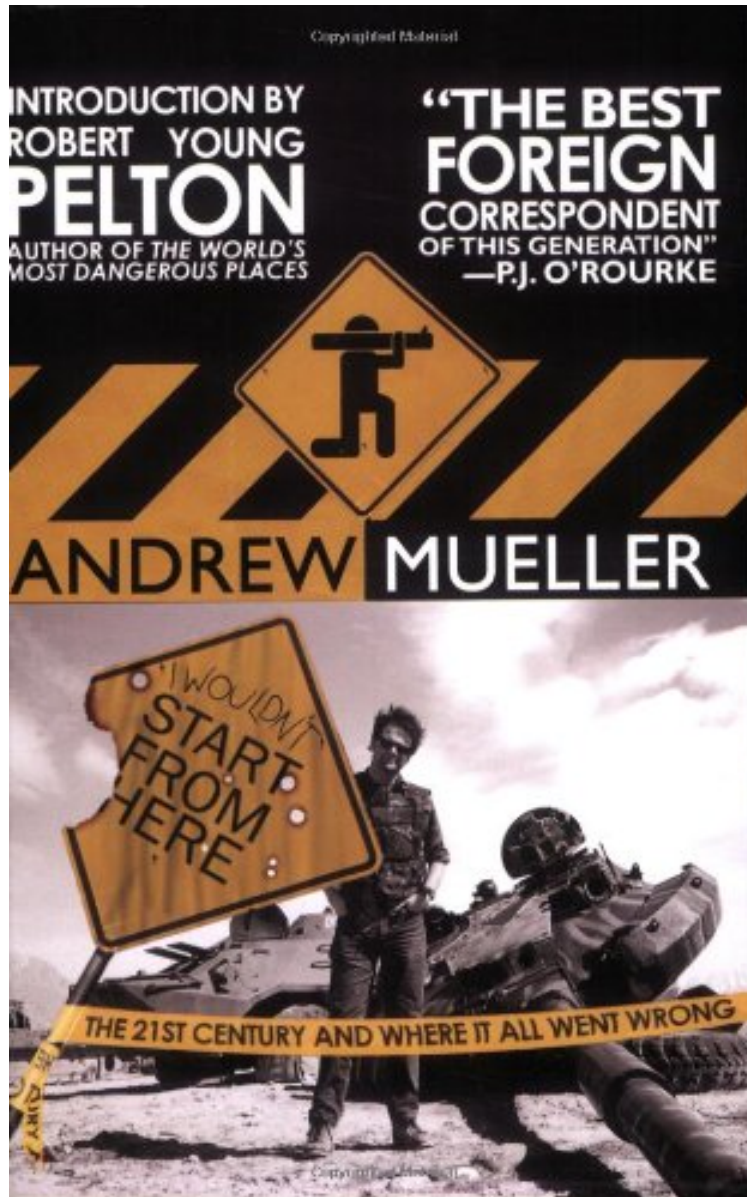


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I Wouldn't Start from Here: The 21st Century and Where It All Went Wrong

Andrew Mueller

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Andrew Mueller : I Wouldn't Start from Here: The 21st Century and Where It All Went Wrong before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Wouldn't Start from Here: The 21st Century and Where It All Went Wrong:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great book.By greendaygreat book.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A good read!By LafcadioI'm most impressed by Mueller's sense of humor. The book takes it's name from a joke told in Ireland by a man asking for directions, who is given the advice "well, I wouldn't start from here." Nice travelogue of hellholes, love to read these because I've been to a few of these places. I particularly learned about Northern Ireland/IRA issues.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Hillarious and AdventurousBy Island LawyerThis is one of those travelogues of hell holes. You know- the kind of place that you would love to go, but are too afraid to do it- especially as an American. Andrew Mueller is Australian, so it might be a bit easier for him. I could not stop laughing throughout the book. His wit and humor is classic. Great book overall.

What is a jaded rock journalist doing dodging landmines to talk to mercenaries and terrorists? And what kind of conversation can a man who prefers hunting for perfect three-minute pop songs and tubes of beer have with devotees of fasting and ferocity?Sarajevo. Jerusalem. Kabul. Belfast. Kosovo. Gaza. Basra. New York City. Every place where recent history advertises the stubbornness, intolerance, bloodlust, and cowardice that sully our collective record, there the intrepid Andrew Mueller goes, skidding around the globe from failed state to ravaged war zone to desolate no-man's-land to try to unpick why we humans seem so prone to plucking war from the jaws of peace.En route, he meets various influential panjandrums (Al Gore, Gerry Adams, Bono, Paddy Ashdown), any number of assorted warlords and revolutionaries, and a sprinkling of peacemakers and do-gooders. He also manages to get shot at, locked up, and taken on a tour by one of the world's most infamous terrorist organizations. It's like a Bond film with much, much less sex, and might appear for that and other reasons to be substantially a story of disappointment. Yet it's a surprisingly sunny book given the mire in which he finds himself.

From Booklist*Starred * The opening decade of the twenty-first century may go down in history as one of the deadliest and bloodiest on record. From Belfast to Basra, Kosovo to Cameroon, the globe is littered with conflicts between nations and tribes, superpowers and renegade republics. There are cases where the cause is known and identifiable; others that are more nebulous and confused. Some escalate into full-scale war, while others simmer as enduring hostilities. What ultimately unites them, claims Mueller, is the search for identity. An erstwhile rock critic, Mueller took the leap into battlefield journalism to investigate the ways in which a chaotic and tenacious concept of nationality can infuse a country's individual citizens with the fervor to kill or die in its defense. Having been wounded and imprisoned in pursuit of this underlying truth through 70 of the world's most volatile regimes, Mueller examines the daily lives of both a new breed of revolutionary and an old guard whose rhetoric is steeped in centuries-old traditions. Peppared with trenchant observations that reflect a nimble, cut-to-the-chase practicality, Mueller's interviews with everyone from terrorist warlords to international peacemakers are refreshingly irreverent yet astute. -- Carol Haggas "Mueller is the embodiment of what can happen with a fire in the belly and a desire to write out loud." ----Australian Book "If you enjoy your international affairs and politics with a good dose of cynicism and black humour, then this book is one to read."