Abstract

Child soldiers have been used in almost every war in history. Despite the lack of acknowledgement and the denial from government officials in most countries, child soldiers have fought alongside their adult counterparts for decades. In more recent wars, children have even been caught on film as suicide bombers, typically sent by their parents to confuse and kill. The analysis of *Girl At War* by Sara Nović provides an inside look at the lives of child soldiers during the Bosnian Wars in particular. The novel also reveals how impactful historical fiction novels can be and how much they actually teach people. Ana’s story as the main character may be fictional, but she was created based on the true stories of surviving child soldiers currently living in Croatia. I compare and contrast this novel to the retellings and memories of child soldiers to shed light on the issue, show what people are trying to do to stop the recruitment of child soldiers, and reveal the secrets of why historical fiction is so impactful.

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