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**Pub Date: August 3, 2004**

*The next title in the American Empire Project*

# CRUSADE

## Chronicles of an Unjust War

by James Carroll

“At once theologian, philosopher, gadfly, and policy wonk, Carroll proceeds, in this collection of *Globe* commentaries, to poke and probe at the assumptions of the [Bush] administration....Smart and closely argued contrarianism, worthy of a Berrigan or Niebuhr.”

—*Kirkus Reviews* starred review

“The war in Iraq has been a victory of moral fervor over moral clarity. The first without the second is a curse on itself and others. James Carroll brings to bear—I hope not too late—the moral clarity we so badly need.”

—Garry Wills

On September 16, 2001, while fielding questions from the press, President George W. Bush used the simple expression, “this crusade, this war on terrorism” When he heard Bush utter the word “crusade,” *Boston Globe* columnist James Carroll—especially sensitive to its religious overtones—perceived an extraordinary shift in American meaning and purpose and began to chronicle that shift. In his new book, **CRUSADE: Chronicles of an Unjust War** (Metropolitan Books; August 3, 2004; \$25.00), Carroll, bestselling author of *Constantine’s Sword* and the National Book Award-winning memoir *An American Requiem*, delivers a powerful indictment of the administration’s moral and political agenda.

From his first column post 9-11 to the anniversary of the war in Iraq, antiwar chaplain and activist, James Carroll, as well as the son of a general, dissects President Bush’s exploitations of the nation’s fears, his invocations of a Christian mission, and his use of good versus evil. For example, in his first essay, Carroll draws comparisons between the war on terrorism and the crusade launched by Pope Urban II in 1095. While, in his epilogue, he takes a step back to reflect on Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ*, which

he argues dramatized the “us versus them” spirit of the Bush era, simplifying complicated questions and putting the traumatic at the center of experience. “The war on which America has embarked is essentially religious,” Carroll explains. “There is no understanding the phenomenal American response to *The Passion of the Christ* apart from an unarticulated but broad cultural anguish tied to the war.”

Drawing on personal experience, Carroll combines a clear moral consciousness, an acute sense of history, and a real-world grasp on the unforgiving demands of politics. From his first rejection of "war" as the proper response to Osama bin Laden, to his prescient verdict of failure in Iraq, to his never-before-published analysis of the faith-based roots of current U.S. policies, **CRUSADE** is a compelling call for the rescue of America's noblest traditions.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

**James Carroll** is the bestselling author of the National Book Award-winning memoir *An American Requiem*; *Constantine's Sword*, a history of Christian anti-Semitism; and ten novels. He lectures widely on war and peace, and on Jewish-Christian-Muslim reconciliation. He lives in Boston, Massachusetts.

**ABOUT THE AMERICAN EMPIRE PROJECT:**

**CRUSADE** is the fourth title in Metropolitan Books' American Empire Project, a new line of provocative and critical books that will focus on the increasingly high cost of America's foreign policies. Written by this country's leading thinkers, these books will examine the United States' turn to empire-building and the domestic and international consequences that follow. Previous books in the series include Noam Chomsky's *Hegemony or Survival* (published in November 2003), Chalmers Johnson's *The Sorrows of Empire* (published in January 2004), and Mexican political cartoonist El Fisgón's *How to Succeed at Globalization* (published in July 2004). Forthcoming books in the project include Michael Klare's *Blood and Oil: The Dangers and Consequences of America's Growing Dependency on Imported Petroleum*.

**CRUSADE**

**Chronicle of an Unjust War**  
**by James Carroll**

Metropolitan Books

August 3, 2004

304 pages \* ISBN 0-8050-7703-0\* \$25.00

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