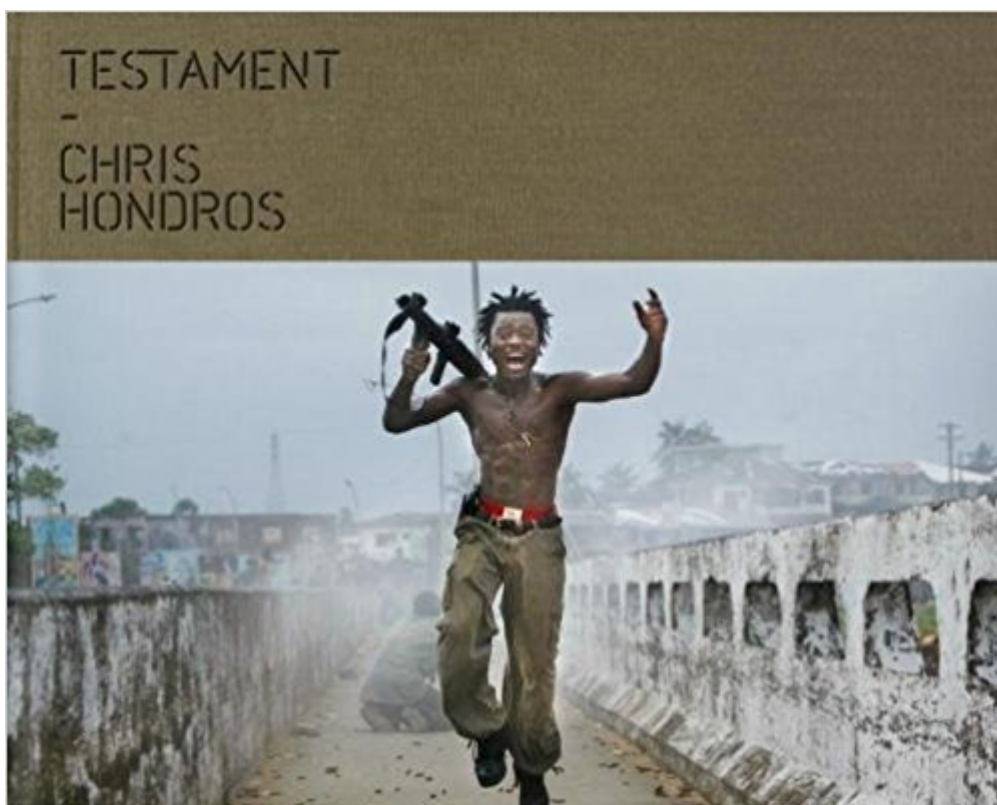


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# Testament



## Synopsis

Testament is a collection of photographs and writing by late photojournalist Chris Hondros spanning over a decade of coverage from most of the world's conflicts since the late 1990s, including Kosovo, Afghanistan, the West Bank, Iraq, Liberia, Egypt, and Libya. Through Hondros' images, we witness a jubilant Liberian rebel fighter exalt during a firefight, a U.S. Marine remove Saddam Hussein's portrait from an Iraqi classroom, American troops ride confidently in a thin-skinned unarmored Humvee during the first months of the Iraq war, "the probing eyes of an Afghan village boy," and "rambunctious Iraqi schoolgirls enjoying their precious few years of relative freedom before aging into more restricted adulthoods." Hondros was not just a front-line war photographer, but also a committed observer and witness, and his work humanizes complex world events and brings to light shared human experiences. Evident in his writings, interspersed throughout, Hondros was determined to broaden our understanding of war and its consequences. This unyielding determination led Hondros to take dozens of trips to Iraq and Afghanistan, even as the news turned elsewhere. During these "routine" trips, Hondros examined and observed daily life in these war-torn societies. His inventive Humvee picture series frames the ever-changing landscapes of these countries, offering a glimpse into the daily lives of those most affected by conflict. "One of the ongoing themes in my work, I hope, and one of the things I believe in, is a sense of human nature, a sense of shared humanity above the cultural layers we place on ourselves [which don't] mean that much compared to the human experience." — Chris Hondros

As a photographer working in the world's most difficult and dangerous places, Chris Hondros had the distinctive ability to connect his viewers with people embroiled in far-flung and sometimes obscure conflicts. He recognized the shared humanity among those affected by war, regardless of culture or beliefs, and he was determined to share their challenges to the wider world in the hope of provoking thought, raising awareness, and fostering understanding. In the introduction to the book, Getty Images Co-founder and CEO Jonathan Klein writes, "Chris believed that his work could and would make a difference. He dedicated and ultimately lost his life in pursuit of that belief. I have no doubt that Chris was correct. Images can and do influence public opinion, galvanize people and societies, and force governments to change. They bring much-needed focus and attention to the suffering of people who are otherwise unable to communicate their plight." Inspired by his life, work, and vision — The Chris Hondros Fund endeavors to bring light to shared human experiences by supporting and protecting photojournalists. Through their generous support, Getty Images' proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the Fund. For more information please visit [www.chrishondrosfund.org](http://www.chrishondrosfund.org).

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## Customer Reviews

"Hondros' photos stood out for his ability to capture moments of clarity in tense, difficult situations. Not just dangerous situations, with bullets and mortars and shrapnel flying all around, but emotional ones."-Mother Jones"Ultimately, Chris's voice became the inspiration, subtext and force behind the 'Testament.'" -New York Times, Lens "Testament, the new collection of images and writings by late photojournalist Chris Hondros, is a labor of love by many people who were close to him."-Photo District News"A fearless photojournalist who covered conflict across the globe, Hondros made images that he believed could change the world, a claim that's hard to argue when faced with his intense and piercing images."-TIME Magazine's LightBox"Chris Hondros, one of the most accomplished war photographers of his generation, was fatally wounded three years ago while in Libya. A new book, *Testament*, showcases Hondros's finest work from some of the world's most dangerous conflicts over the years."-CNN Photos"It underscores that sometimes the most important thing you can do as a journalist is be a witness for the world and that's what Hondros died doing." -Yahoo"...one of the most gifted photojournalists of the 21st century. His most powerful work has now been collected in *Testament*"-Rolling Stone Named one of Mother Jones's best photo books of the year.

Chris Hondros (March 14, 1970–April 20, 2011) was an American Pulitzer Prize-nominated photojournalist. Born in New York City to Greek and German immigrants, both survivors of World

War II, he moved to Fayetteville, North Carolina, as a child. After studying English literature at North Carolina State University and receiving a master's degree from Ohio University's School of Visual Communication, Hondros returned to New York to concentrate on international reporting. Hondros covered most of the world's major conflicts and disasters since the late 1990s, including work in Kosovo, Afghanistan, the West Bank, Iraq, Liberia, Egypt, and Libya. Hondros was also a frequent lecturer and published essayist on issues of war, and he regularly wrote for the Virginia Quarterly Review, Editor & Publisher, the Digital Journalist, and other news publications. Hondros, a staff photographer for Getty Images since 2000, was a two-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in breaking news photography: in 2004, for his work in Liberia, and posthumously in 2012, for his coverage of the Arab Spring. During his career, he received dozens of awards, among them honors from World Press Photo, the Pictures of the Year International competition, Visa pour l'Image, and the Overseas Press Club, including the John Faber Award for his work in Liberia and the Robert Capa Gold Medal, war photography's highest honor, for his work covering the conflict in Iraq.

Chris Hondros was a photojournalist whose work has been prominently on display the last few years. Photojournalists shoot history in the present tense and often pay for it with their lives. We have seen his images, perhaps without realizing they were his, illustrating the conflict in various hot spots, including Libya where he was killed in 2011. Like many other photographers, he was influenced by Larry Burrows in his use of saturated, high contrast color, and like Robert Capa, perhaps the preeminent photojournalist of the last century, he had a feel for dramatic action confronted head on. But dramatic action per se was not his main subject. Like Werner Bischof, one of the founders of the Magnum agency, he had a sensitivity to the psychological and physical suffering of human beings under the effects of mechanized warfare. His most brilliant series was probably from 2005, detailing the shooting of an Iraqi family by U.S. troops. Hondros's best shots are of children and women caught in the confusion of crossfire, and of men in the middle of some action that seems not only violent, but mysterious and absurd. Unlike Bischof, or the photographers of the past century, Hondros's images also seem to connote a post-apocalyptic aura, where men are fighting amidst the rubble and ruins of the world as we know it. This book is, as the title states, a beautiful testament to Mr. Hondros's photographs. The full bleed horizontal images go over the gutter of the book leaving a blank space on one side for the eye to rest, with descriptions in the back of the book. Aside from the images there is a selection of writings by Mr. Hondros that, as one would expect, are not about him, but fully concerned with the

subjects of his work, and their situation inside history in the present tense.

The images in this book are stunning, powerful and unforgettable. They capture the humanity of the subjects and the reality of life in areas of the world that most of us will never see. This book opens our eyes. The photos interspersed with the writing of the photojournalist make a powerful impact. We all need to pay attention to what is happening in the world. After seeing this book I have ordered several more to give as gifts. This book is that important.

Hondros has told the story of the voiceless...the civilians, the child soldier, the professional combatant on the urban battlefield. He has met conflict and crisis with an intimate, personal eye that lets us understand the human cost of war from its many sides. Get this book.

What a wonderful tribute to an exceptional photojournalist. These aren't easy images to look at, but they tell an important story that we all need to hear.

Chris Hondros left this life far too young. A courageous, intelligent, talented photojournalist, his extensive work had been seen around the world, but many people didn't know his name. A self-evasive professional, he brings a master's eye for the artistic portrayal of war and conflict around the world. This is truly his Testament to the world at war in the last century.

This is a wonderful book. It's a beautiful coffee-table book format, but inside, the text and photography are powerfully poignant, insightful and are award-winning excellence. I liked this so much I bought additional copies for gifts.

exceeded my expectations!

A Great artist and true loss to society. The pictures are graphic and very moving and the commentary excellent. Wonderful contribution to the visual toll of conflict.

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