

THE
WARRIOR'S
MANIFESTO

IDEALS FOR THOSE WHO PROTECT AND DEFEND



DANIEL MODELL

“A magnificent treatise. Belongs in the pantheon
of great books about good vs. evil.”

—David Kahn, US chief instructor, Israeli Krav Maga Association; author

“Compels the reader to believe that the warrior spirit is indomitable
and thus remains undaunted.”

—Robert Dreeben, twenty-seven-year veteran, NYPD

“Raises provocative questions and answers them with depth and boldness.”

—Detective Anthony Amoroso, NYC regional director,
New York Tactical Officers Association

“A must-read for any rank or level of experience. Inspires and
leaves you feeling proud [of] a very special group of people—warriors.”

—James Schramm, police officer (retired);
Senior trainer, Armament Systems and Procedures

The Warrior's Manifesto is a concise and potent declaration of principles that chronicles the soul of the warrior by exploring the what, the why, and the way of those who protect and defend.

Whether serving in the trenches or securing our streets, warriors choose a life that requires them to “**stand between the predators and the innocents of the world and hold the line with [their own] blood,**” as Modell writes.

The Warrior's Manifesto is a compelling defense of the role played by warriors in society. It will inspire those who answer the call to shield others, professionally or personally—and all those who appreciate what that means.



PHOTO: EVE PRIME
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DANIEL MODELL served twenty years with the New York Police Department, retiring at the rank of lieutenant. He was training coordinator of the Firearms and Tactics Section and coordinator of the Tactical Training Unit, teaching thousands of police officers to navigate the dynamics of violent encounters. Today he is CEO of Ares Tactical and Emergency Management Solutions and an adjunct professor at the State University of New York–FIT. Daniel Modell lives in New York.



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info@ymaa.com · www.ymaa.com

Praise for *The Warrior's Manifesto*

“*The Warrior's Manifesto*—a treatise that uncovers and delineates the complex layers of an individual acting as a guardian who, at some point alone or in force, might have to make the ultimate sacrifice to save lives. If you carry a gun for a living, you know very well that your choices and actions revolve around four integral human components: life, death, freedom, and money. These elements filter and govern your administration of force. Daniel Modell delves deeply into historical accounts of ubiquitous yet quintessential warrior figures emergent within society at every level who prevent evil in its many incarnations from gaining a foothold on civilization. Through a comprehensive breakdown of events, figures, and battles recorded in antiquity, Daniel compels the reader to believe that the warrior spirit is indomitable and thus remains undaunted.”

—Robert Dreeben

Twenty-seven-year veteran, NYPD
Contributor, *Black Belt* magazine and
The Police Marksman

Certified instructor, Wing Chun kung fu
and tai chi chuan

“*The Warrior's Manifesto* delves into the warrior's true motives: the what, why, and way, and the philosophy behind them. I believe anyone in law enforcement, military, and other warrior roles can greatly benefit and be inspired by it. An excellent read.”

—Matan Gavish

Founder, Krav Maga Academy

“*The Warrior's Manifesto* raises provocative questions and answers them with depth and boldness. The questions and the answers should inspire meaningful debate at a time when it is sorely needed, a time when the idea and the ideals of the warrior are being attacked and undermined from within and without. The defense contained in the pages of the book will do much to restore the

understanding of the warrior professions and the spirit that underwrites them as fundamentally important to society.”

—Detective Anthony Amoroso
NYC regional director, New York Tactical
Officers Association

“The men and women of law enforcement, military, and security perform their jobs every day with little praise. They are often ridiculed and criticized for a job few would do. They are told how to do their jobs, but the real ‘why’ of it all is never truly explained. Over the past fourteen years, I have been privileged to train with these men and women. I am always looking for words to motivate and inspire. I try my best to answer the question ‘why.’ Despite my best efforts, I was never truly able to articulate this. *The Warrior’s Manifesto* answers the *why* and shows us the *way*. It is a must read for any rank or level of experience. It inspires and leaves you feeling proud to be part of that small and very special group of people—warriors. I have often used the word *warrior*, never fully understanding its meaning—until now.”

—James Schramm
Police officer (retired)
Senior trainer, Armament Systems and Procedures

“In *The Warrior’s Manifesto*, Lt. Daniel Modell (ret.) has presented a magnificent treatise on the warrior mind-set. The exquisitely written book uses artfully crafted historical examples to underscore the lessons and observations he presents. Any casual or serious student of history will immediately appreciate the past examples of courage, fortitude, and a warrior’s will to fight for his or her highest purpose. These historical warriors include the likes of Spartacus, King Leonidas, William Wallace, Yoni Netanyahu, and others.

“Mr. Modell places each historical figure not just within the context of the figure’s contemporary history but of all history, facing down insurmountable odds—with the key ingredient that each fighter knew the odds were such. Anyone who adheres to the necessity of the ‘good fight’ will take stock and reaffirm heart from this cogent analysis of why men and women stand up and stand to against aggression. Mr. Modell’s insights and writing are nonpareil. This compelling book could rightly be characterized as martial studies,

history, philosophy, psychology, military and police science, and possibly a host of other designations—which is what makes it all the more fascinating. *The Warrior's Manifesto* belongs in the pantheon of great books about good versus evil. It provides a comprehensive yet succinct example of why warriors fight.”

—David Kahn, US chief instructor,
Israeli Krav Maga
Author, *Krav Maga: Professional Tactics*

Warriors aren't just folks who kill people, break things, and blow stuff up. Sure, violence is often part of the job description, but why and how they fight separates warriors who safeguard freedom from villains who wish to take it away. Modell's treatise is a short but insightful read that cuts to the essence of warriorhood. It'll make you think.

—Lawrence Kane,
award-winning author of *Musashi's Dokkodo*

In this short treatise, Daniel Modell succinctly describes the what, why, and way of the warrior. The historical examples provide guidance for all those who choose the path of the warrior. In essence, *The Warrior's Manifesto* lights the way for all who fight against inhumanity, corruption, and misery: the warriors of our society.

—Alain Burrese, J.D.,
former army sniper, 5th dan Hapkido,
author of *Hard-Won Wisdom*
From The School Of Hard Knocks

THE WARRIOR'S MANIFESTO

Ideals for Those Who
Protect and Defend



Daniel Modell

YMAA Publication Center, Inc.

PO Box 480

Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, 03894

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Foreword

THUCYDIDES IS OFTEN credited with having written, “The Nation that makes a great distinction between its scholars and its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards and its fighting done by fools.”

This Athenian general and classical historian of the Peloponnesian War would have had no need for concern, nor need to caution, had he known Lieutenant Danny Modell and *The Warrior’s Manifesto*. Danny is that rare combination of scholar and warrior. With degrees in philosophy from two of the nation’s preeminent universities (a bachelor’s degree from New York University and a master’s degree from the University of Texas at Austin) and twenty years of experience with the world’s preeminent police force, he is ultimately qualified to write a contemporary warriors’ manifesto.

I have had the privilege and honor to work with and help train many selfless individuals who daily protect our nation, communities, property, and health. Having worked with a cross section of gallant guardians, including military command, Navy SEALs, firefighters, paramedics, and local, state, and federal police, it is clear to me that *The Warrior's Manifesto* provides reflection and direction for any and all members of these elite groups who are committed to attaining the warrior ideal.

However, as my professional experience has been predominantly with law enforcement, I want to emphasize the immense value of Danny's work for police officers. This may be a unique time in the history of American law enforcement, and *The Warrior's Manifesto* is the book for this time.

Never has the police officer been more urgently needed but also scrutinized, criticized, and, at times, even reviled. Among the deserved compliments has been the application of the title "warrior" to those in law enforcement, and this has also been among the heated controversies surrounding the field.

Those who criticize the use of the title in the context of policing seem to demonstrate an excessively myopic viewpoint and failure to recognize the purpose, discipline, and values of the warrior ethos. Unfortunately, the related public and political criticism often demoralizes and erodes the faith, confidence, and commitment of the individual officer.

The Warrior's Manifesto is a tour de force. It is truly a foundation for those who believe police officers can be

warriors (and should aspire to be so). It should help relieve the contemporary confusion about what the warrior is and why the appellation does apply to the police officer.

The Warrior's Manifesto will do much to clarify and rectify the real issues. It is both an anchor and a rudder for the modern police officer and police command. The work is a synthesis of the traditions of warriorship and contemporary challenges.

Danny is a wordsmith who writes with an engaging passion and challenging quality. You will not be able to lay this book aside until you have read it all and, until then, you will read with great anticipation of Danny's next point and well-turned phrase. His knowledge of history is truly impressive, but even more so is his presentation of it, which reads not like a stuffy rendition of an irrelevant past but like on-point personal knowledge.

This is a work that the veteran officer will find validating and the rookie will find inspiring. This work will confirm what the veteran officer knows and what the rookie needs to know. It is required reading for both. It cannot be read too soon, nor too often, by either.

Michael J. Asken, PhD

Police psychologist, author (with Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grossman and Loren Christensen) of *Warrior Mindset: Mental Toughness Skills for a Nation's Peacekeepers*, and author of *MindSighting: Mental Toughness Skills for Police Officers in High Stress Situations*

The Spirit of the Warrior

THE SPIRIT OF the warrior touches many across time and place. It is not exclusive to those professionals who devote their lives to it. It touches the mother who, with blinding ferocity, protects a child against danger. It touches the young man who blazes like a flame and charges forward when an armed terrorist storms onto the train that carries him. It touches the principal who plants herself, unyielding as granite, between a machete-wielding madman and the kindergarteners that he means to attack. It touches the brave samaritan who along his way sees a thug robbing an old man and does not avert his eyes but chases the thug away. Circumstances call, and the moment finds a warrior. The spirit of the warrior touches many across time and place.

And what of those who meet not *a* moment but *all* moments as warriors, not by force of circumstance but

by choice, under solemn oath, as the sum total of their professional being? To explore the meaning of this choice, of this oath, of this sum total of being across all moments will be our theme here—with no slight intended to the brave souls who answer with a will of stone when circumstance calls out.

The spirit of the warrior is not exclusive to those professionals who devote their lives to it. But it does find its most consistent expression in them. This compass will shape our journey in what follows.

Prologue

SOCIETY MAKES A peculiar offer to its citizenry: we have a job, if you want it. Here it is.

You must stand between the predators and the innocents of the world and hold the line with your blood.

Pay is modest—and rendered grudgingly.

You will labor across hours, long and ungodly, that will test the limits of exhaustion and tedium.

Family will suffer your absence. You will miss many meaningful moments.

You will find yourself shipped to places far away, forbidding, forgotten or assigned to patrol streets savaged by violence, poverty, madness. Your presence will not be welcomed.

You will see tragedy, hopelessness, and evil at depths that will rend your soul. You will be expected somehow,

some way, to keep yourself whole as you drown in these so that you may confront them again the next day.

You will be called filthy names. In the course of your duties, you will be attacked, targeted, challenged. Some will try to kill you. They may succeed.

The antipathy of the press and the animosity of the public will flank you without end until your final tour of duty. Your every action, every decision, every remark will be the subject of unremitting—and unforgiving—scrutiny.

Politicians will exploit you—for good and ill—and sacrifice you to expediency once the exploitation is done.

Your mistakes, though honest, will never be forgiven—ever.

You will save many, but the one you lose will haunt you until your dying day.

You will form bonds of brotherhood with your comrades, wordless in their abiding depth, forged in the rough bravery that circumstance compels. You will bury many of those brothers.

You will begin each day knowing that you may never see another.

This is the job that society offers its citizenry. Do you want it?

For most, the answer is an obvious one: no. But for a few, the answer is just as obvious: yes.

This is for the few who answer yes.

I.

The What of the Warrior

Fate whispers to the warrior, “You cannot withstand the storm,” and the warrior whispers back, “I am the storm.”

—UNKNOWN

EVIL HAS EXISTED in all times and in all places; and in all times and places, those willing to meet evil have also existed. This is the warrant for and the essence of the warrior.

A warrior is not defined by insignia, uniforms, or shields; a warrior is not birthed by bow, sword, or gun. Warriors existed before all these things, and where they don or wield them, bestow them their meaning. If insignia, uniforms, or shields made the warrior, the Nazi Schutzstaffel, mass murderers of the defenseless, would be warriors. Spartacus would not be. A warrior is not defined by insignia, uniforms, or shields.

Fighting for country does not define a warrior. If fighting for country defined the warrior, Japanese soldiers of the Axis who conquered the Chinese and hurled infants in the air to catch them on bayonets would be

warriors. The forty-seven ronin of Ako would not be. Fighting for country does not define the warrior.

Fighting for deity does not define a warrior. If fighting for a god defined the warrior, soldiers of the Islamic State, who profess to fight for God as they cleave the heads of “unbelievers” in public spectacles while they kneel bound and unable to fight, would be warriors. Colonel Ethan Allen would not be. Fighting for deity does not define the warrior.

Is it war, then, that makes the warrior?

War has always been a complex affair spanning organization, logistics, and strategy. Staff tends camp, cooks prepare food, engineers design machinery, scribes draft orders. The cook, the engineer, and the administrator may be brave men. Certainly, they are part of the war effort. But as cooks, engineers, and administrators, they are no warriors (though they may be cooks, engineers, administrators, *and* warriors).

Does fighting in a war, then, make the warrior?

From the massive armies of ancient Persia and China to the trimmer forces of France and England centuries later, history finds militaries composed largely of conscripts and slaves compelled to fight at the point of a spear or the muzzle of a gun in an endless procession of predation to extend the imperium of tyrants. Many of those so compelled were brave and skilled fighters, but, had they a choice, they would have elected a different path for themselves. Some embraced their fate. Some

volunteered to test their mettle or defend what they believed. They may have been warriors. But those forced to fight in the schemes of tyrants are not warriors. They do not fight by choice for a cause embraced as just.

The long history of warfare, moreover, often stumbles into malignancy unconnected to battle proper. Perhaps the crudeness of conscription feeds the malignancy. In any event, defeating an enemy often meant (and, sadly, means still) raping, pillaging, and plundering. Brutalizing a defeated village is thuggery. Those who do it may be fighters in a war. But fighters, brawlers, and brutes are not warriors. Fighting in a war does not make a warrior.

The warrior existed before any army; the warrior existed before any police; the warrior existed before any shield, sword, or gun; the warrior existed before rank, before hierarchy, before divisions, before units. The warrior exists still above all these things—though he may exist in them too. War needs warriors. Warriors do not need war. Ask any cop.

The trendy cant braying about the “ethical warrior” is therefore a redundancy. It confuses the warrior with one who fights in a war. Nobility was always the pride and mark of the warrior. The soldier, the cop, the freedom fighter must earn the name. It is not bestowed by status or appointment.

History illuminates the theme.

By 73 BCE, the empire of Rome spanned the known world. Its military and cultural power was immense.

Rome was everywhere. To challenge it was madness. One man defied its peerless might. His true name remains a mystery. He kept it for himself. History calls him Spartacus.

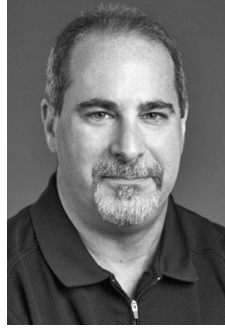
Of Thrace and free by birth, “he served as soldier among Romans, after captive and sold as gladiator.”¹

Spartacus was enslaved by the Romans and pressed into death-reeking arenas for the amusement of elites who elevated themselves above others. The elites could do what they would with lesser peoples. They were Romans.

For Spartacus, life as a slave began in the ludus of Lentulus Batiatus at Capua. Existence was harsh in the ludus. To prepare for combat whose end was death to amuse spectators often meant death along the way.

Spartacus yearned for the freedom into which he was born, the freedom wrested from him by a Roman sword. As a skilled strategist burning with life, he hungered for an opportunity to shatter chains. When it tapped, Spartacus seized the day and slashed through his masters to the world beyond their cages. Other gladiators joined. They fought as warriors would, with whatever they could find: kitchen implements, training tools, bare hands. “*Furor arma ministrat*”²—rage finds its weapons. Some imagine him rallying his fellow gladiators with these words:

If ye are beasts, then stand here like fat oxen, waiting for the butcher’s knife! If ye are men, follow me! Strike down yon guard, gain the



About the Author

DANIEL MODELL served for twenty years in the New York City Police Department across a range of patrol commands and assignments. Twice promoted during his tenure, he retired as a lieutenant. He was coordinator of the Tactical Training Unit and training coordinator of the Firearms and Tactics Section. He is a certified force science analyst and functioned, during his tenure with the agency and beyond, as an expert in use of force for criminal and civil cases.

Modell is adjunct professor at the State University of New York–FIT, where he developed the curriculum for and teaches “The Art and Practice of Self-Defense.”

He is chief executive officer of Ares Tactical and Emergency Management Solutions, which administers self-defense and tactical training seminars to a broad range of institutions.

Modell has published a number of articles, including *The Psychology of the Active Killer*, *Mythologizing Killers: How Language Distorts Debate and Response*, *The Roots of the Reactive Posture* and *Case Law and Decision Making*.

Daniel Modell resides in Bronx, New York.