

This video is a transcript of an interview discussing the book "At War with Women" by Jennifer, centering on the intersection of international development, military strategies, and gender dynamics in the context of post-9/11 conflicts, specifically in Iraq and Afghanistan. Jennifer explains her motivation for the book, highlighting her experiences in international development where anti-terrorism justifications began to dominate funding and practices related to supporting women.

She notes the military's use of humanitarian projects as a public relations tool to mask the violence of war, arguing that these militarized development practices are inherently violent. Jennifer provides insights into how counterinsurgency strategies emerged from historical imperial practices, emphasizing that the U.S. military's new strategies attempted to engage women as vital to winning local support, often employing female soldiers to interact with Afghan women in homes.

She discusses her research methodology, including interviews with female soldiers and defense contractors, emphasizing the historical context and how gender constructs influenced military interactions and perceptions. The concept of "new military femininity" emerges, representing a contradictory inclusion of women into a traditionally male-dominated institution while reinforcing stereotypes.

Jennifer urges readers to critically assess claims of military interventions framed as promoting women's rights, advocating for awareness of who these actions truly benefit and the violence they may perpetuate. She concludes with a call to recognize the disconnect between feminist ideals and military violence, which often exacerbates the suffering of women and gender-diverse individuals in war-torn regions.