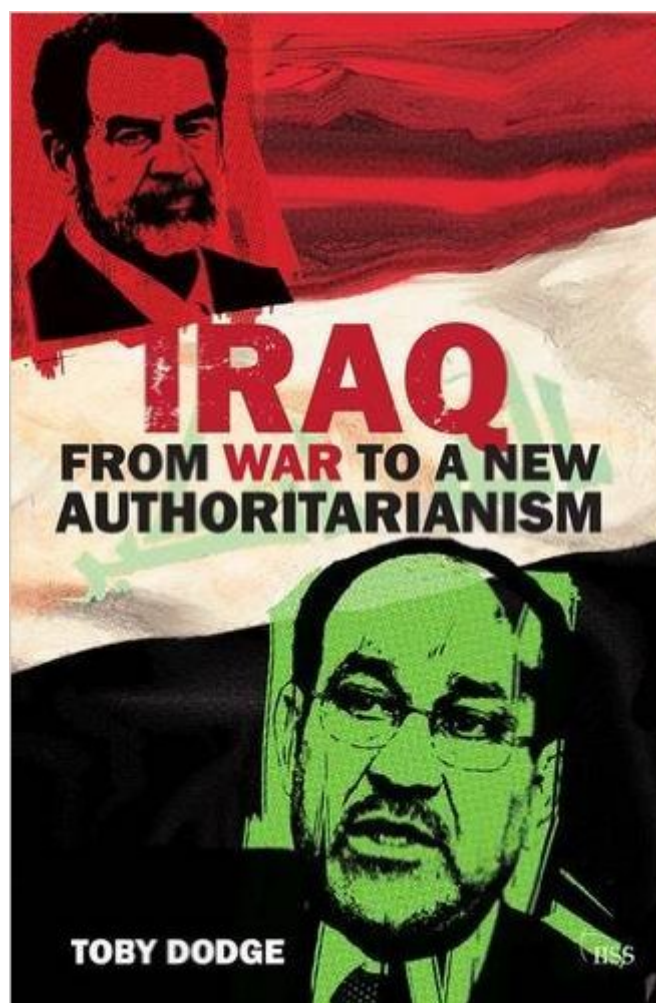


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Iraq - From War To A New Authoritarianism (Adelphi Series)



Synopsis

Iraq recovered its full sovereignty at the end of 2011, with the departure of all US military forces. The 2003 invasion was undertaken to dismantle a regime that had long threatened its own population and regional peace, as well as to establish a stable, democratic state in the heart of the Middle East. This Adelphi looks at the legacy of that intervention and subsequent state-building efforts. It analyses the evolution of the insurgency, the descent into full-scale civil war and the implementation of the 'surge' as a counterinsurgency strategy. It goes on to examine US and Iraqi efforts to reconstruct the state's military and civilian capacity. By developing a clear understanding of the current situation in Iraq, this book seeks to answer three questions that are central to the country's future. Will it continue to suffer high levels of violence or even slide back into a vicious civil war? Will Iraq continue on a democratic path, as exemplified by the three competitive national elections held since 2005? And does the new Iraq pose a threat to its neighbours?

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Customer Reviews

Whether you know nothing about Iraq's history and political past or you're looking for a deeper -- and nuanced -- analysis of the post 2003 situation there, this is a very good read.

I came across much new information here that was very startling and I doubt whether the majority of Americans have any idea how widespread (in the cities) the internal and brutal fighting and killing

between Sunnni and Shia militias and neighborhoods following the American invasion was. Maliki has many Putin-like qualities when it has to do with neutralizing the competition, and is equally vicious when it comes to neutralizing enemies. The last thirty years of Iraq history as told so well here is stunning and tragic. I purchased it when it was favorably reviewed by the Economist towards the end of 2013. This is a very good read !

If you really want to know about Iraq, this isn't the book to go about it. This book works to create a picture of a new dictatorship, akin to Saddam Hussein's Iraq. It's quite hard understanding his train of thought when in reality, there is no strong state in Iraq, and Iraq is currently the only working (at least in terms of elections) democracy in the Middle East. If you really want to learn about Iraq, you'd better consult Charles Tripp or even better Hanna Batatu's monumental study on Iraqi history and society. Iraq is a weak state, and in weak states, there are simply no dictators of the type Dodge refers to. It's simply not possible, especially since there are many key players in Iraq; Maliki is but one of many, and he will go out of politics in the next elections. Dodge simply hasn't captured the pace of change in Iraq, nor what 2003 / pre-2003 Iraq was about. That's his biggest failure, and this book doesn't present readers of what is really happening on the ground. Not many books do, for that matter. I suggest that any real academic looking at Iraq would need to come up with more than just a few media articles and hearsay based on his Diaspora contacts, and actually speak to everyday Iraqis.

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