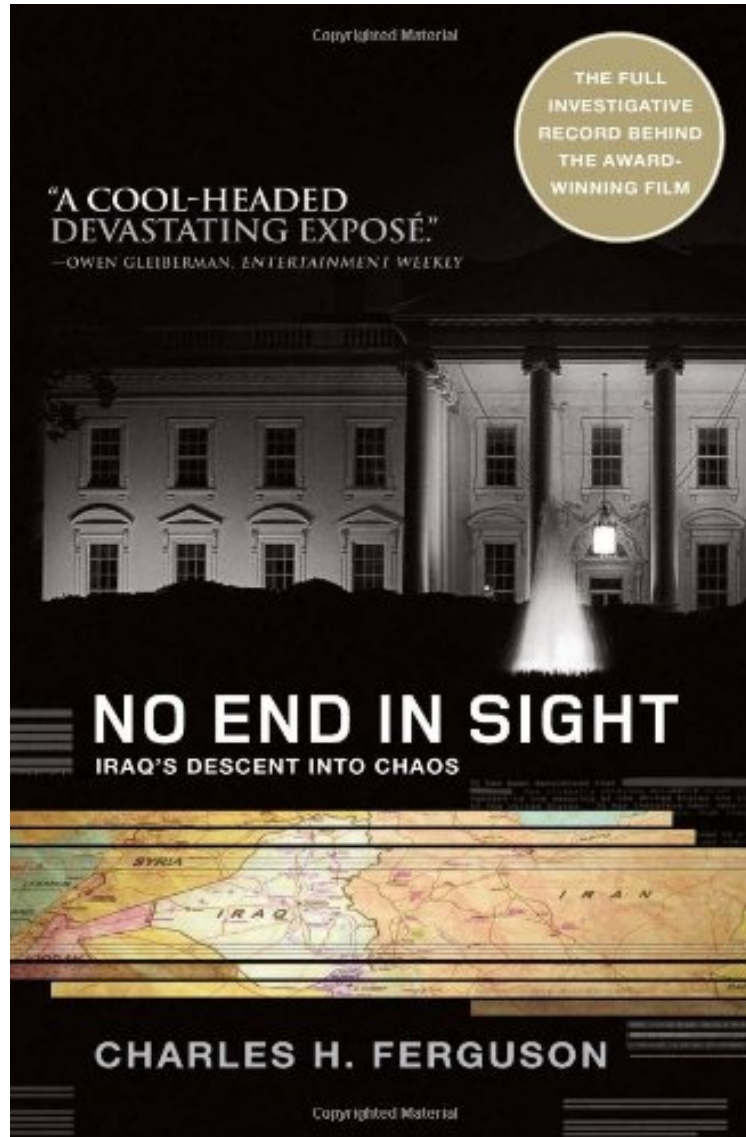


(Ebook pdf) No End in Sight: Iraq's Descent into Chaos

No End in Sight: Iraq's Descent into Chaos

Charles Ferguson

DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1992658 in Books PublicAffairs 2008-02-05Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 1.72 x 6.43 x 9.191, 1.10
#File Name: 158648608X672 pages | File size: 50.Mb

Charles Ferguson : No End in Sight: Iraq's Descent into Chaos before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised No End in Sight: Iraq's Descent into Chaos:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read.By Lemarr E. ThomasVery informative. Great writing.0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Book is great but arrived as used versionBy Edith Piaflts a great book, we just wish we received the new version we had paid for. For some reason we received a pretty old copy.49 of 49 people found the following review helpful. A Case Study in War ManagementBy GreenyFor those unfamiliar with the

2007 film by the same name, *No End In Sight* documents the management of the war in Iraq. I bought this book at a book signing with the author after his presentation. Charles Ferguson, award-winning documentarian, obtained candid interviews with officials such as Richard Armitage, former deputy secretary of the State Department. These interviews were lengthy, hours in many cases, and the documentary film version only featured a small percentage of the material. Much of the best of this material works even better in book form. The movie is no substitute for the book, which Ferguson wrote later and which benefited from a longer editing process, follow-on trips to the region, deeper and matured analysis, and even more interviews. This is not an analysis of why the U.S. went to war. It is the classic account of what happened once the war began. *No End In Sight* informs us on how the big decisions were actually made and would probably serve as a textbook for the military academies. Recall that after the Gulf War, which ended in February 1991, the first President Bush went on to lose the election of 1992 despite having been extremely popular during that war. The Iraq War, began in March 2003, would be managed differently. The Iraq war was not going to end before the U.S. presidential election of November 2004. Paul Bremer, who went to Iraq in May 2003, would help see to that. Interviewees tell how the demise of the original plan happened. But nobody wanted to risk themselves personally by going public in the midst of the nation's greatest housing boom. Time ate away at the players Ferguson interviewed. They needed to talk. That's how this book got started. Meet Barbara Bodine, the ambassador placed in charge of the city of Baghdad by the Office for Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance. She was determined to help the Iraqis to manage their affairs and thereby bring home the troops. Ambassador Bodine had needed, perhaps more than others, to get things right in Baghdad. A capable in-fighter in her own right, Bodine was hung out to dry. Bodine's long career as a stateswoman had become controversial when as Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen, she denied FBI agent John P. O'Neill re-entry into Yemen to continue his command of the FBI investigation into the USS Cole bombing. This was just a turf spat between State and FBI. Some scholars now believe that O'Neill would have uncovered the 9/11 plot in time to save lives, as O'Neill had already put together several important pieces of the puzzle that became 9/11. (O'Neill was subsequently investigated for losing a briefcase and many feel he was forced out of the FBI, not having recovered from losing the turf battle in Yemen. He became the head of security at the World Trade Center, where he was killed in the September 11, 2001 attacks.) Colonel Paul Hughes, a highly decorated former Army colonel, is another Iraq War veteran with tread marks on his back. He served in the Office of Post War Planning, the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance and the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq. Hughes is now a Senior Program Officer in the Center for Post-Conflict Peace and Stability Operations in the United States Institute for Peace (whatever all that means). Some colleagues say he lost a piece of his soul in Iraq and is searching for it. Good and troubled people reclined at Documentarian Ferguson's couch. The cast of characters tells us how the insurgency got started. In particular, Paul Bremer replaced Jay Gardner in May 2003. Bremer took over as head of the Coalition Provisional Authority and reported directly to the U.S. Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld. Bremer was tasked with re-jiggering the war in Iraq while on the home front efforts were made to push out liquidity. Bremer made surprise decisions that contradicted all the meticulous planning of the U.S. experts on the ground in Iraq. He disbanded the Iraqi military, sending them home with their weapons and no income. He followed that up by removing Ba'ath party members from all government positions, resulting in collapse of law and order. In June 2004 Bremer was finished. He transferred limited sovereignty of Iraqi territory to the Iraqi Interim Government and got out. Ferguson's interviewees seem mortified that one man could do so much to shape the war in so little time. Whose side was Bremer on? By all accounts, Bremer was courageous and industrious, exposing himself to countless risks. At the same time, his decisions could not have been more precisely targeted to thwart all efforts made by everyone else in-country to wrap up the mission and get the troops home. In December 2004, President Bush awarded Bremer the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. The Presidential Medal of Freedom has an interesting history of symbolism. Normally this medal is awarded to those close to a president or to celebrities that lend support to a president. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is often thought of as the "First Ladies Medal" - it has been awarded to Nancy Reagan, Rosalyn Carter, Betty Ford and Lady Bird Johnson. Bremer never explained to Ferguson or anyone else why he did what he did. He returned a year later and promptly received the nation's highest civilian award. This award normally only goes to the closest associates of the president and supportive celebrities. But Bremer was neither. One could conclude that Paul Bremer was merely following orders. If so, it would make sense that he could not disclose his real mission to others. His job may have been to disrupt what the others were doing in order to make the war last at least through the 2004 election. *No End In Sight* makes a huge contribution in our effort to understand how the Iraq War was managed. Ferguson's masterpiece is an examination of the conflict between the interests of the top elected official and what is best for the U.S.

The first book of its kind to chronicle the reasons behind Iraq's descent into guerilla war, warlord rule, criminality, and anarchy, *No End In Sight* is a shocking story of wholesale incompetence, recklessness, and venality. Culled from over 200 hours of footage collected for the film, the book provides a candid and alarming retelling of the events following the fall of Baghdad in 2003 by high ranking officials, Iraqi civilians, American soldiers, and prominent analysts. Together, these voices reveal the principal errors of U.S. policy that largely created the insurgency and chaos that

engulf Iraq today and what we could and should do about them now. *No End In Sight* marks the first time Americans will be allowed inside the White House, Pentagon, and Baghdad's Green Zone to understand for themselves the disintegration of Iraq and how arrogance and ignorance turned a military victory into a seemingly endless and deepening nightmare of a war.

"Now he has taken the material he collected from more than 50 interviews, expanded and updated it with additional interviews, and added his own interpolated commentary and a charming introduction, and produced a book also titled *"No End In Sight"* that, in its way, is as powerful as his movie, and equally heartbreaking." -- *New York Times Book*, March 30, 2008

About the Author Charles Ferguson is director and producer of *No End in Sight: The American Occupation of Iraq*, which is his first film. A political scientist and strategic consultant, Ferguson co-founded one of the earliest Internet software companies, Vermeer Technologies, which he eventually sold to Microsoft. Ferguson is a visiting scholar of political science at MIT and UC Berkeley, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a director of the French-American Foundation. He is the author of three books on information technology.