

EMMA SKY

# THE UNRAVELING

HIGH HOPES AND  
MISSED OPPORTUNITIES  
IN IRAQ



# The Unraveling High Hopes And Missed Opportunities In Iraq

**Larry Diamond**



## **The Unraveling High Hopes And Missed Opportunities In Iraq:**

*The Unraveling* Emma Sky, 2015-04-07 When Emma Sky volunteered to help rebuild Iraq after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in 2003 she had little idea what she was getting in to Her assignment was only supposed to last three months She went on to serve there longer than any other senior military or diplomatic figure giving her an unrivaled perspective of the entire conflict As the representative of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Kirkuk in 2003 and then the political advisor to US General Odierno from 2007 2010 Sky was valued for her knowledge of the region and her outspoken voice She became a tireless witness to American efforts to transform a country traumatized by decades of war sanctions and brutal dictatorship to insurgencies and civil war to the planning and implementation of the surge and the subsequent drawdown of US troops to the corrupt political elites who used sectarianism to mobilize support and to the takeover of a third of the country by the Islamic State With sharp detail and tremendous empathy Sky provides unique insights into the US military as well as the complexities diversity and evolution of Iraqi society *The Unraveling* is an intimate insider's portrait of how and why the Iraq adventure failed and contains a unique analysis of the course of the war Highlighting how nothing that happened in Iraq after 2003 was inevitable Sky exposes the failures of the policies of both Republicans and Democrats and the lessons that must be learned about the limitations of power

***The Unravelling*** Emma Sky, 2015-05-14 SHORTLISTED FOR THE ORWELL PRIZE 2016 SHORTLISTED FOR THE SAMUEL JOHNSON PRIZE 2015 Emma Sky was working for the British Council during the invasion of Iraq when the ad went around calling for volunteers Appalled at what she saw as a wrongful war she signed up expecting to be gone for months Instead her time in Iraq spanned a decade and became a personal odyssey so unlikely that it could be a work of fiction Quickly made civilian representative of the CPA in Kirkuk and then political advisor to General Odierno Sky became valued for her outspoken voice and the unique perspective she offered as an outsider In her intimate clear eyed memoir of her time in Iraq a young British woman among the men of the US military Emma Sky provides a vivid portrait of this most controversial of interventions exploring how and why the Iraq project failed

Strategic Intelligence and Civil Affairs to Understand Legitimacy and Insurgency Diane E. Chido, 2019-05-31 This book describes the common pitfalls of U S military interventions in efforts at stabilization which supports post conflict societies by establishing stable governance rule of law a safe and secure environment economic development and social well being for all members of the population These efforts are often unsuccessful and can even cause harm when mission teams do not understand both the populations with whom they are engaging and policymakers The book recommends prioritizing a relational approach to stabilization with a professional and well resourced Civil Affairs and strategic intelligence approach to engagements over the current preference for transactional often lethal operations

Underlined While Reading-3 Sezai ARLI, I was born in December 1954 or January 1955 when the first snow fell as the third child of a Kurdish family living in a remote village of Eastern Turkey My father died of tuberculosis at the age of 31 when I was six years old My mother was 34 never married

again dedicated her life to her children From the moment I learned how to read and write I became a passionate reader of the books books of literature books of history books of travel books of philosophy books of memoirs books of biographies books of politics This book contains some of the excerpts that I noted while reading Excerpts of wisdom and reflection from Barack Obama to Haji Ali Nurmadhar of Korphe Village in Karakoram from Edward Gibbon to Abdul Sattar Edhi Pakistani Philanthropist Excerpts on life on love on humanity on civilization on courage on art on ideas on faith on democracy on freedom on nations on education on war on peace Just a few short examples For only in death are we alone Rabindranath Tagore Sir that all who are happy are equally happy is not true A peasant and a philosopher may be equally satisfied but not equally happy Happiness consists in the multiplicity of agreeable consciousness Samuel Jonson Serious literature is no less of a life preserver even if the society is all but oblivious of it Philip Roth It bothers me a little that at 99 you re going to die any minute because I have a lot of other things I want to do Delmer Berg Sezai Arli Doha November 2020 Mavericks of War Jason S Ridler,2023-06-14 A military historian sheds light on the maverick thinkers who hatched outlandish plots and shaped warfare from WWI to Vietnam and beyond During World War I Oxford trained archeologist Lawrence of Arabia used his knowledge of the Middle East to help organize the Arab revolt against the Ottoman Empire In this entertaining and insightful book Jason Ridler profiles the intellectuals outsiders and eccentrics who followed in Lawrence s footsteps across the next hundred years of warfare those who relied on creativity curiosity and outside the box thinking to shape battlefields from World War II and Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan These men were Ivy Leaguers and Oxford scholars anthropologists and archeologists Among them were an ad executive an international activist a Peace Corps veteran an migr journalist and former teenage member of the French Resistance and a diplomat These mavericks and oddballs both men and women were not always heralded or heeded and sometimes they were hated But they each challenged traditional military thought and helped win wars secure peace and change the face of modern military conflict **A Concise History of the Middle East** Ibrahim Al-Marashi,Arthur Goldschmidt Jr.,2018-09-03 A Concise History of the Middle East provides a comprehensive introduction to the history of this turbulent region Spanning from pre Islam to the present day it explores the evolution of Islamic institutions and culture the influence of the West modernization efforts in the Middle East the struggle of various peoples for political independence the Arab Israel conflict the reassertion of Islamic values and power the issues surrounding the Palestinian Question and the Middle East post 9 11 and post Arab uprisings The twelfth edition has been fully revised to reflect the most recent events in and concerns of the region including the presence of ISIS and other non state actors the civil wars in Syria and Yemen and the refugee crisis New parts and part timelines will help students grasp and contextualize the long and complicated history of the region With updated biographical sketches and glossary and a new concluding chapter this book remains the quintessential text for students of Middle East history The Day After Brendan R. Gallagher,2019-09-15 Since 9 11 why have we won smashing battlefield victories only to botch nearly everything that comes

next In the opening phases of war in Afghanistan Iraq and Libya we mopped the floor with our enemies But in short order things went horribly wrong We soon discovered we had no coherent plan to manage the day after The ensuing debacles had truly staggering consequences many thousands of lives lost trillions of dollars squandered and the apparent discrediting of our foreign policy establishment This helped set the stage for an extraordinary historical moment in which America's role in the world along with our commitment to democracy at home and abroad have become subject to growing doubt With the benefit of hindsight can we discern what went wrong Why have we had such great difficulty planning for the aftermath of war In *The Day After* Brendan Gallagher an Army lieutenant colonel with multiple combat tours to Iraq and Afghanistan and a Princeton Ph D seeks to tackle this vital question Gallagher argues there is a tension between our desire to create a new democracy and our competing desire to pull out as soon as possible Our leaders often strive to accomplish both to keep everyone happy But by avoiding the tough underlying decisions it fosters an incoherent strategy This makes chaos more likely *The Day After* draws on new interviews with dozens of civilian and military officials ranging from US cabinet secretaries to four star generals It also sheds light on how in Kosovo we lowered our postwar aims to quietly achieve a surprising partial success Striking at the heart of what went wrong in our recent wars and what we should do about it Gallagher asks whether we will learn from our mistakes or provoke even more disasters Human lives money elections and America's place in the world may hinge on the answer

*In a Time of Monsters* Emma Sky, 2020-02-06 Returning to the UK in September 2010 after serving in Iraq as the political adviser to the top American general Emma Sky felt no sense of homecoming She soon found herself back in the Middle East travelling through a region in revolt In *A Time of Monsters* bears witness to the demands of young people for dignity and justice during the Arab Spring the inability of sclerotic regimes to reform the descent of Syria into civil war the rise of the Islamic State and the flight of refugees to Europe With deep empathy for its people and an extensive understanding of the Middle East Sky makes a complex region more comprehensible A great storyteller and observational writer Sky also reveals the ties that bind the Middle East to the West and how blowback from our interventions in the region contributed to the British vote to leave the European Union and to the election of Donald Trump as president of the United States

Britannica Book of the Year Franklin Henry Hooper, 2016 *Confidence for Teens Unlocked* Emma Sky, 2024-02-22 *School Library Journal*, 2006 *The New York Times Index*, 2002 **The Boston Globe Index**, 1991 **My Year in Iraq** L. Paul Bremer, 2006-01-09 BAGHDAD WAS BURNING With these words Ambassador L Paul Jerry Bremer begins his gripping memoir of fourteen danger filled months as America's proconsul in Iraq My Year in Iraq is the only senior insider's perspective on the crucial period following the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime In vivid dramatic detail Bremer reveals the previously hidden struggles among Iraqi politicians and America's leaders taking us from the ancient lanes in the holy city of Najaf to the White House Situation Room and the Pentagon E Ring His memoir carries the reader behind closed doors in Baghdad during hammer and tongs negotiations with emerging Iraqi

leaders as they struggle to forge the democratic institutions vital to Iraq's future of hope. He describes his private meetings with President Bush and his admiration for the president's firm wartime leadership. And we witness heated sessions among members of America's National Security Council: George Bush, Dick Cheney, Colin Powell, Donald Rumsfeld, and Condoleezza Rice, as Bremer labors to realize the vision he and President Bush share of a free and democratic New Iraq. He admires the selfless and courageous work of thousands of American servicemen and women and civilians in Iraq. The flames Bremer describes on arriving in Baghdad were from fires started by looters. One of his first acts was to request an additional 4,000 Military Police to help restore order in the streets. For most of the next year, as the insurgency spread, Bremer resisted efforts by generals and senior Defense Department civilians to reduce American troop strength prematurely, replacing our forces with ill-trained, poorly led Iraqi police and soldiers. And he lays to rest the myth that the Coalition disbanded Saddam's army, a force comprised of Shiite draftees who had deserted and refused to serve under their former Sunni officers. Bremer also describes his frustration with intelligence operations that concentrated on the search for weapons of mass destruction while the insurgency gathered strength. Bremer faced daunting problems working with Iraq's traumatized and divided population to find a path to a responsible and representative government. The Shia Arabs, the country's long-repressed majority, deeply distrusted the Sunni Arab minority who had held power for centuries and had controlled the detested Baath Party. Iraq's non-Arab Kurds teetered on the brink of secession when Bremer arrived. He had to find Sunnis willing to participate in the new political order. Some in the U.S. government pushed for what Bremer would come to call a cut-and-run policy that would have quickly delivered governance of Iraq to a handful of unrepresentative anti-Saddam exiles. Bremer vigorously resisted this ill-conceived course. He takes the reader inside marathon negotiations as he and his team shepherded Iraq's new leaders to write an interim constitution with guarantees for individual and minority rights unprecedented in the region. *My Year in Iraq* is required reading for all those interested in the real story of how America responded to its gravest recent overseas crisis.

*Waiting for an Ordinary Day* Farnaz Fassihi, 2008-09-09. Since 2003, Iraq's bloody legacy has been well documented by journalists, historians, politicians, and others confounded by how Americans were seduced into the war. Yet almost no one has spoken at length to the constituency that represents Iraq's last best hope for a stable country: its ordinary working and middle class. Farnaz Fassihi, *The Wall Street Journal's* intrepid senior Middle East correspondent, bridges this gap by unveiling an Iraq that has remained largely hidden since the United States declared their Mission Accomplished. Fassihi chronicles the experience of the disenfranchised as they come to terms with the realities of the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. In an unforgettable portrait of Iraqis whose voices have remained eerily silent from art gallery owners to clairvoyants, taxi drivers to radicalized teenagers, Fassihi brings to life the very people whose goodwill the U.S. depended upon for a successful occupation. Haunting and lyrical, *Waiting for an Ordinary Day* tells the long-awaited story of post-occupation Iraq through native eyes. **Squandered Victory** Larry Diamond, 2007-04-01. America's leading expert on democracy delivers the first

insider's account of the U.S. occupation of Iraq a sobering and critical assessment of America's effort to implant democracy In the fall of 2003 Stanford professor Larry Diamond received a call from Condoleezza Rice asking if he would spend several months in Baghdad as an adviser to the American occupation authorities Diamond had not been a supporter of the war in Iraq but he felt that the task of building a viable democracy was a worthy goal now that Saddam Hussein's regime had been overthrown He also thought he could do some good by putting his academic expertise to work in the real world So in January 2004 he went to Iraq and the next three months proved to be more of an education than he bargained for Diamond found himself part of one of the most audacious undertakings of our time In *Squandered Victory* he shows how the American effort to establish democracy in Iraq was hampered not only by insurgents and terrorists but also by a long chain of miscalculations missed opportunities and acts of ideological blindness that helped assure that the transition to independence would be neither peaceful nor entirely democratic He brings us inside the Green Zone into a world where ideals were often trumped by power politics and where U.S. officials routinely issued edicts that later had to be squared at great cost with Iraqi realities His provocative and vivid account makes clear that Iraq and by extension the United States will spend many years climbing its way out of the hole that was dug during the fourteen months of the American occupation *War Journal* Richard Engel, 2012-11-13 In the most dramatic and intimate account of battle reporting since Michael Herr's classic *Dispatches* NBC News's award winning Middle East Bureau Chief Richard Engel offers an unvarnished and often emotional account of five years in Iraq Engel is the longest serving broadcaster in Iraq and the only American television reporter to cover the country continuously before during and after the 2003 U.S. invasion Fluent in Arabic he has had unrivaled access to U.S. military commanders Sunni insurgents Shiite militias Iraqi families and even President George W. Bush who called him to the White House for a private briefing He has witnessed nearly every major milestone in this long war *War Journal* describes what it was like to go into the hole where U.S. Special Operations Forces captured Saddam Hussein Engel was there as the insurgency began and watched the spread of Iranian influence over Shiite religious cities and the Iraqi government He watched as Iraqis voted in their first election He was in the courtroom when Saddam was sentenced to death and interviewed General David Petraeus about the surge In vivid sometimes painful detail Engel tracks the successes and setbacks of the war He describes searching with U.S. troops for a missing soldier in the dangerous Sunni city of Ramadi surviving kidnapping attempts IED attacks hotel bombings and ambushes and even the smell of cakes in a bakery attacked by sectarian gangs and strewn with bodies of the executed *War Journal* describes a sectarian war that American leaders were late to understand and struggled to contain It is an account of the author's experiences insights bittersweet reflections and moments from his private video diary itself the subject of a highly acclaimed documentary on MSNBC *War Journal* is the story of the transformation of a young journalist who moved to the Middle East with 2,000 and a belief that the region would be the story of his generation into a seasoned reporter who has at times believed that he would die covering the war It is about American

soldiers ordinary Iraqis and especially a few brave individuals on his team who continually risked their lives to make his own daring reporting possible      **Meeting the New Iraq** Juman Kubba, 2013-08-20 This book is about the new Iraq the Iraq that many say has finally after many years become a democracy which has brought freedoms and rights chaos and confusion The author relates lending her skills to help Iraq progress toward a better future She also gives an account of her feelings and experiences upon returning to her native city Baghdad with each new encounter provoking old memories and building new foundations and her view of the current Iraq from the perspective of someone who has lived in the United States for three decades Finally she offers her thoughts on where Americans and Iraqis are headed together with their lives intermingled as never before because of the recent war      **The Threatening Storm** Kenneth Pollack, 2003-03-25 In The Threatening Storm Kenneth M Pollack one of the world s leading experts on Iraq provides a masterly insider s perspective on the crucial issues facing the United States as it moves toward a new confrontation with Saddam Hussein For the past fifteen years as an analyst on Iraq for the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Council Kenneth Pollack has studied Saddam as closely as anyone else in the United States In 1990 he was one of only three CIA analysts to predict the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait As the principal author of the CIA s history of Iraqi military strategy and operations during the Gulf War Pollack gained rare insight into the methods and workings of what he believes to be the most brutal regime since Stalinist Russia Examining all sides of the debate and bringing a keen eye to the military and geopolitical forces at work Pollack ultimately comes to this controversial conclusion through our own mistakes the perfidy of others and Saddam s cunning the United States is left with few good policy options regarding Iraq Increasingly the option that makes the most sense is for the United States to launch a full scale invasion eradicate Saddam s weapons of mass destruction and rebuild Iraq as a prosperous and stable society for the good of the United States the Iraqi people and the entire region Pollack believed for many years that the United States could prevent Saddam from threatening the stability of the Persian Gulf and the world through containment a combination of sanctions and limited military operations Here Pollack explains why containment is no longer effective and why other policies intended to deter Saddam ultimately pose a greater risk than confronting him now before he gains possession of nuclear weapons and returns to his stated goal of dominating the Gulf region It is often said that war should be employed only in the last resort Pollack writes I reluctantly believe that in the case of the threat from Iraq we have come to the last resort Offering a view of the region that has the authority and force of an intelligence report Pollack outlines what the leaders of neighboring Arab countries are thinking what is necessary to gain their support for an invasion how a successful U S operation would be mounted what the likely costs would be and how Saddam might react He examines the state of Iraq today its economy its armed forces its political system the status of its weapons of mass destruction as best we understand them and the terrifying security apparatus that keeps Saddam in power Pollack also analyzes the last twenty years of relations between the United States and Iraq to explain how the two countries reached the unhappy standoff that



currently prevails Commanding in its insights and full of detailed information about how leaders on both sides will make their decisions The Threatening Storm is an essential guide to understanding what may be the crucial foreign policy challenge of our time Hope Is Not a Plan Thomas Mowle, 2007-03-30 Hope Is Not a Plan takes the reader inside the war in Iraq courtesy of participant observers brought there to diagnose the insurgency and develop a get well plan Focusing on the critical months of late 2004 and early 2005 it looks at a slice of the war not previously examined This is not the Beltway story nor the grunt and jarhead story Rather the book looks at the process of taking political and military goals and turning them into action In telling that story Hope Is Not a Plan helps explain how Iraq got to where it is today The book compares the reality of what happen in the Green Zone during this period with what history experience and doctrine suggest should have happened Finally it reflects on what can be learned from the experience From the outset the war in Iraq was directed from Washington and executed by troops on the ground Between Washington and the battlefields was the Green Zone a four square mile enclave that hosted the American Embassy annex the Iraqi Reconstruction Management Office the planning policy strategy and communications sections of Headquarters Multi national Force Iraq and the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq

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