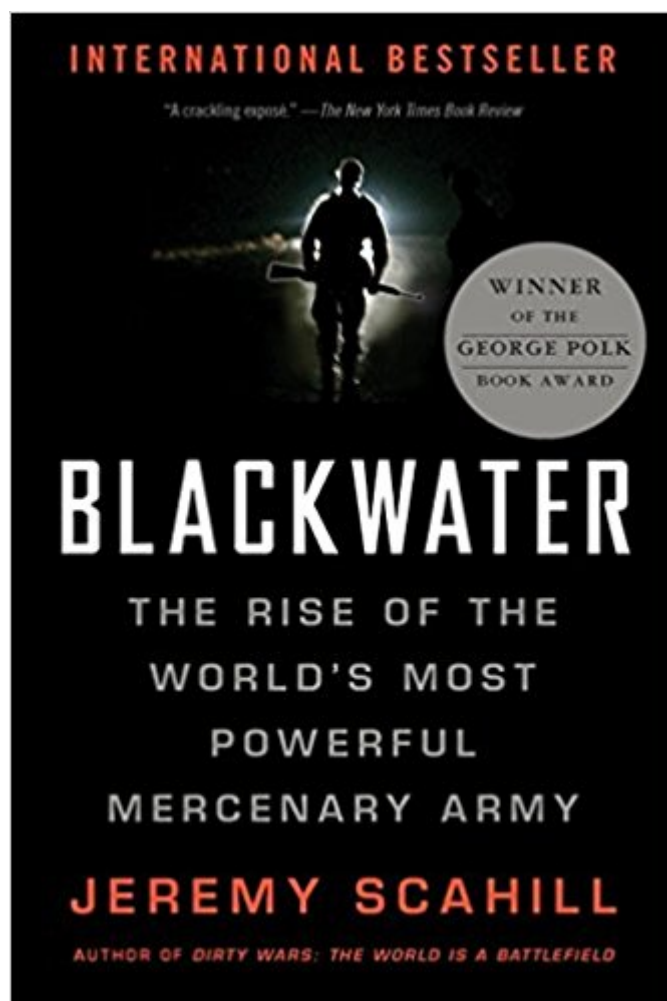


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Blackwater: The Rise Of The World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army [Revised And Updated]



Synopsis

On September 16, 2007, machine gun fire erupted in Baghdad's Nisour Square, leaving seventeen Iraqi civilians dead, among them women and children. The shooting spree, labeled 'Baghdad's Bloody Sunday,' was neither the work of Iraqi insurgents nor U.S. soldiers. The shooters were private forces working for the secretive mercenary company, Blackwater Worldwide. This is the explosive story of a company that rose a decade ago from Moyock, North Carolina, to become one of the most powerful players in the 'War on Terror.' In his gripping bestseller, award-winning journalist Jeremy Scahill takes us from the bloodied streets of Iraq to hurricane-ravaged New Orleans to the chambers of power in Washington, to expose Blackwater as the frightening new face of the U.S. war machine.

Book Information

Paperback: 560 pages

Publisher: Nation Books; Rev Upd edition (May 27, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 156858394X

ISBN-13: 978-1568583945

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.3 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 506 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #130,803 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #131 in Books > History > Military > Iraq War #264 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Terrorism #266 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Security

Customer Reviews

Scahill, a regular contributor to the Nation, offers a hard-left perspective on Blackwater USA, the self-described private military contractor and security firm. It owes its existence, he shows, to the post-Cold War drawdown of U.S. armed forces, its prosperity to the post-9/11 overextension of those forces and its notoriety to a growing reputation as a mercenary outfit, willing to break the constraints on military systems responsible to state authority. Scahill describes Blackwater's expansion, from an early emphasis on administrative and training functions to what amounts to a combat role as an internal security force in Iraq. He cites company representatives who say Blackwater's capacities can readily be expanded to supplying brigade-sized forces for humanitarian

purposes, peacekeeping and low-level conflict. While emphasizing the possibility of an "adventurous President" employing Blackwater's mercenaries covertly, Scahill underestimates the effect of publicity on the deniability he sees as central to such scenarios. Arguably, he also dismisses too lightly Blackwater's growing self-image as the respectable heir to a long and honorable tradition of contract soldiering. Ultimately, Blackwater and its less familiar counterparts thrive not because of a neoconservative conspiracy against democracy, as Scahill claims, but because they provide relatively low-cost alternatives in high-budget environments and flexibility at a time when war is increasingly protean. (Apr. 10) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

"Thanks to Jeremy Scahill and other reporters of conscience and courage, 'independent journalist' is not an oxymoron." -- Ray McGovern "From Belgrade to Baghdad, from Nigeria to New Orleans, Jeremy Scahill leads a new generation of muckraking journalists. Scahill is exposing the dark, violent and secretive world of the neo-mercenaries Washington is increasingly deploying in its wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and at home in the US. His investigative skill, coupled with his graceful style make this book essential reading." -- Amy Goodman "A crackling expose of the secretive military contractor Blackwater." -- "The New York Times Book Review" "[Scahill] is a one-man truth squad." -- Bill Moyers "[An] utterly gripping and explosive story." -- Naomi Klein, "The Guardian" "The biggest book of the year...an amazingly researched and well-told story." -- Matthew Rothschild, "The Progressive" "Scahill's page-turning collection of intrigue and insight into the underworld of privatized warfare is well researched, thoroughly documented, and as a result extremely frightening." -- "The Globe and Mail" "Scahill provided me information...which I have not been able to get from the U.S. military...I have read more from Mr. Scahill, than I've got from our own government." -- Representative Marcy Kaptur, Defense Appropriations Committee "[T]his is no uninformed partisan screed...Meticulously documented and encyclopedic in scope...it's a comprehensive and authoritative guide...this book serves as a provocative primer for advancing the debate." -- Bill Sizemore, Pulitzer-prize nominated journalist, "Virginian-Pilot" "Andy McNab couldn't have invented this prescient tale of the private army of mercenaries run by a Christian conservative millionaire who, in turn, bankrolls the president. A chilling expose of the ultimate military outsource." -- Christopher Fowler, "The New Review" "s "Best Books of 2007" "Fascinating and magnificently documented...Jeremy Scahill's new book is a brilliant expose and belongs on the reading list of any conscientious citizen." -- Scott Horton, International and Military Law Expert, Columbia University Law School "Virginian-Pilot" "At Blackwater USA, Jeremy Scahill's is the face

they love to hate... [He is] perhaps the private military company's most dogged critic."Bill Maher, host of HBO's "Real Time""[Scahill's] book is so scary and so illuminating.""The Guardian" (London)"Blackwater being rarely out of the news lately, this is a very useful survey of modern mercenaries - or, as they prefer to be called, 'private security contractors' in the 'peace and stability industry'...Scahill is a sharp investigative writer."Scarlett Johansson, actor"It should be mandatory reading. It's very interesting - and scary."

A very well researched and documented book that chronicles the rise evolving into permanence of the best soldiers money can buy. For such detailed material it is an easy read. However, the passages of what was going on with the Bush administration during the applicable period of time will break your heart. Yes, it was as bad as you suspected.

This was a wonderful book. An overwhelming amount of relevant detail, which results in a connection of the dots. The author does a great job in showing the mix of money, politics, and ideology; and how this has affected the United States military.

This book is a good op-ed position to the concept of using contracted security forces in a war zone. Don't look to this documentary to give an unbiased account of Blackwater's role in US military history.

Research Scahill, read this book, and make up your own mind. Either way, we're in trouble as a Nation.

This book was recommended to me by someone that wanted me to learn about Blackwater and what it stands for in our world. I have read this with an open mind. I do think it is necessary to have Private Army during this outrage in the middle east. Without these men the enemy would take over and be here. I do not know all the political jargon in this book. I do not follow much about politics. Now I play to be more informed as to what is going on with our world. The book is well written but it is only one sided. I am going to look for another one from the point of view from one of the men that are actually working for Blackwater. I liked the book even though it is 500 pages I read it in two days. I applaud these men for keeping the enemy under control. Job well done. I don't know if many other women will read this but I did like the book. Maybe some women will want to know about this also.

Very good book! This book really explains everything about Blackwater from the start to the end. It takes you deep into not only the story of Blackwater itself, but also its founder Erick Prince. However i would like to point out that this was not written by a member of Blackwater and a fan of Blackwater such as myself, you will notice that at some points in the book you will notice a bias against Blackwater. But i found that the amount of information in this book makes it worth every penny.

Most people have no idea about this group's involvement with the Iraq war. Not only is it extremely interesting, but could explain some of the reasons of the changes in our police departments over the last 15-20 years.

Great book, I just saw the movie "Dirty Wars" which was very good as well. Learned just about everything I wanted to know about Blackwater and who is in charge of the firm and the history behind it. Very informative and I am now a big fan of Jeremy Scahill.

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