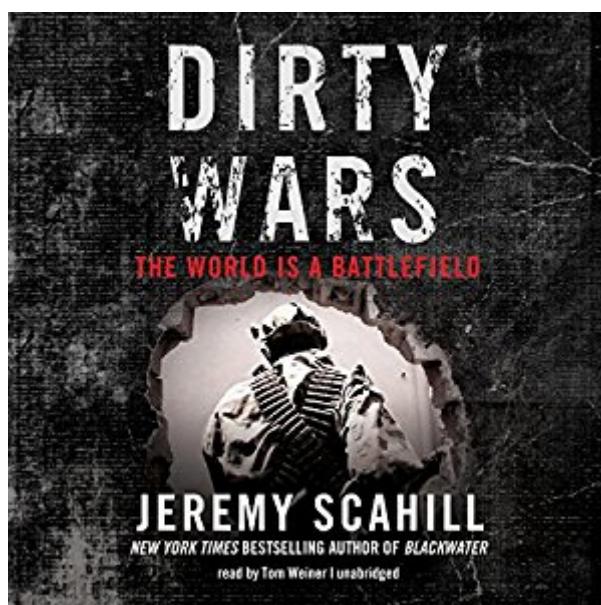


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Dirty Wars: The World Is A Battlefield



Synopsis

In this groundbreaking book of new reportage, sure to stir a global debate, journalist Jeremy Scahill - author of the acclaimed international best seller *Blackwater* - takes us into the heart of the War on Terror's most dangerous battlefields as he chases down the most important foreign-policy story of our time. From Afghanistan and Pakistan to Yemen, Somalia, and beyond, Scahill speaks to the CIA agents, mercenaries, and elite Special Operations Forces operators who populate the dark side of American war-fighting. He goes deep into al Qaeda-held territory in Yemen and walks the streets of Mogadishu with CIA-backed warlords. We also meet the survivors of US night raids and drone strikes - including families of US citizens targeted for assassination by their own government - who reveal the human consequences of the dirty wars the United States struggles to keep hidden. Written in a gripping, action-packed narrative nonfiction style, *Dirty Wars: The World Is a Battlefield* reveals that, despite his pledge to bring accountability to US wars and to end Bush-era abuses, President Barack Obama has kept in place many of the most dangerous and secret programs that thrived under his predecessor. In stunning detail, Scahill exposes how Obama has escalated these secret US wars and has built up an elite secret US military unit that answers to no one but the president himself. Scahill reveals the existence of previously unreported secret prisons, kidnappings, assassinations, and cover-ups of covert operations gone terribly wrong. In this remarkable story from the frontlines of the undeclared battlefields of the War on Terror, journalist Jeremy Scahill documents the new paradigm of American war: fought far from any declared battlefield, by units that do not officially exist, in thousands of operations a month that are never publicly acknowledged. The devastating picture that emerges in *Dirty Wars* is of a secret US killing machine that has grown more powerful than whatever president happens to reside in the White House. Scahill argues that far from keeping the United States - and the world - safe from terrorism, these covert American wars ensure that the terror will grow and spread.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the first thing I've read by Mr. Scahill and I have to say he delivers the goods. He is not a pundit commenting from afar about the work and research of others: he has talked to many of the main figures involved (other than Rumsfeld, Cheney and Addington....) and put together a scathing indictment of the ineffective and tragic embrace of violence and cruelty to try to stamp out terrorism. It is easy to judge the men involved in terrorism, and, thanks to drones, easier to find them and kill them, but to what end? We would save a lot of money and lives if we did some of the things they claim to want us to do: shut down our bases in the Middle East, push harder for Israel to treat the Palestinians like human beings with rights, and use our influence with the leaders of the Middle Eastern countries to improve justice and opportunity for more of their citizens. But, as we all well know, there are few rational or reasonable actors at any level here, and power, hubris and money have blinded nearly all the principals to the harm they cause. In the end the path of least resistance is letting the military and the CIA run amok because most Americans really don't care as long as they aren't personally affected by all this activity. It will be very interesting if the Nobel Peace Prize winning President Obama ever comes clean about all the dirty dealings he has been a part of. They are a stain on whatever legacy he claims, and I otherwise admire him much.

Must read look at the failure of the U.S. war on terror. Provides endless examples of how the use of torture, drones, renditions to foreign prison camps, policies that ignored the Geneva Convention and assassination actually increased terrorism in Yemen, Iraq, Somalia, Afghanistan and other countries. It is another example of how tough sounding rhetoric and policies, which are so politically popular, is actually a recipe for disaster. This of course has the unfortunate political impact of actually being good for those who advocate these dysfunctional policies. As their "get tough on terror" terrorizes the civilian populations and works as a recruiting tool for terror groups, the subsequent rise in terrorism and political instability encourages even tougher policies, creating a vicious cycle of military spending, assassinations, terror and even more incompetent political leaders.

This important book starts out slow, and to be truthful, I put it down thinking maybe I wouldn't finish it. Months later I went back and had no problem reading it in its entirety. After page 100, the book takes off. Yes there seems to be TMI, but on reflection it is justified by the complexity of what is happening over there. There is no short-cut to an adequate understanding of the mess we created, especially in Somalia. Jeremy Scahill, along with Glenn Greenwald, is at the forefront of journalism, the leading edge.

I was skeptical going in to this book thinking it was going to be horribly biased to one particular side, however, once I began to delve into the pages of this book I clearly saw that the administration follies were on both sides. Jeremy Scahill is an amazing investigative journalist for his tenacity for getting the truth. Journalists used to write the truth because the people deserved to know, now it seems they are all biased to one side. It is very difficult to find an unbiased journalist, but Jeremy is definitely one of them. Scahill writes about how America, through both the Bush and Obama administrations, has sought to push past not only people's rights in foreign countries, but our own as well in order to get the kill. The book shows how the administrations have supplied other countries with foreign aid in return for cooperation, or in other words, in return for allowing the U.S. to do whatever military operations it requires within that particular country, followed by cover-ups and denials. The book illustrates also how American citizens in foreign countries have been hunted down and killed for practicing freedom of speech, albeit speech the government found unpleasant. Scahill pulls no punches in this heavy hitter book which calls both sides out for the trespasses they have done to innocent foreigners and its own citizens. This book is highly recommended to get a fuller picture of the underworld of American operations.

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