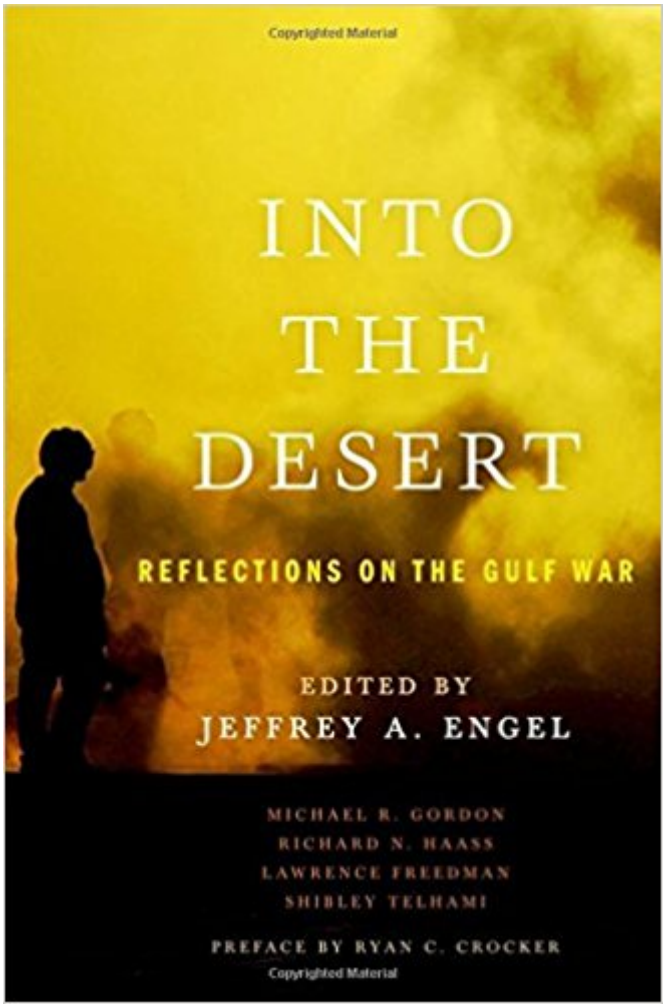
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Into The Desert: Reflections On The Gulf War



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Synopsis

In the decade following the first Gulf War, most observers regarded it as an exemplary effort by the international community to lawfully and forcefully hold a regional aggressor in check. Interpretations have changed with the times. The Gulf War led to the stationing of US troops in Saudi Arabia, an important contributing cause of the 9/11 attacks. The war also led to a long obsession with Saddam Hussein that culminated in a second, far longer, American-led war with Iraq. In Into the Desert, historian Jeffrey Engel has gathered an all-star cast of contributors to reevaluate the first Gulf War: Michael Gordon of the New York Times; Sir Lawrence Freedman, former foreign policy advisor to Tony Blair; American Ambassador to Iraq and Afghanistan Ryan Crocker; Middle East specialist Shibley Telhami; and Richard Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations. Engel and his contributors examine the war's origins, the war itself, its impact within the Arab world, and its long-term impact on military affairs and international relations. All told, Into the Desert offers an astute reassessment of one of the most momentous events in the last quarter century.

Book Information

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"The Gulf War was a defining moment for our country. A full generation later, these scholars and participants to that history recall that tumultuous period in vivid detail. For those who recall that past, and those who care about America's future role in the Middle East, Into the Desert is a must-read."--President George H.W. Bush "Into the Desert is a brilliant and penetrating account of the first Gulf War and its legacy. Featuring a stellar cast of contributors, it provides an excellent overview of an event that helped reshape not just the United States and the Middle East, but the

broader international order."--Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, USAF, (Ret.), former National Security Advisor to Presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush

Jeffrey A. Engel directs the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University. The author and editor of six books on American foreign policy, his works include The Fall of the Berlin Wall, Cold War at 30,000 Feet, and The China Diary of George H.W. Bush.

It is unlikely that a book of essays published under the auspices of the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs would be excessively critical of U.S. conduct during the 1990Ãƒ Â¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ91 Gulf War, during which Brent Scowcroft served as national security adviser. And indeed, at least one of the essays falls prey to the temptation of complacent justification of the war leadership of Bush 41 at the particular expense of Bush 43 more than a decade later. But the other essays are appropriately judicious, complex, and ambivalent. In retrospect, the Gulf War was far less the definitive and smashing success the Bush 41 administration claimed (and some of its former members still believe it to have been) and more a gateway to a different set of problems that Saddam Hussein posed.Most college students today were not even born when the Gulf War occurred. This book is a good way of helping them think about what it meant.

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