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Von William R. Polk

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A HISTORY OF
INSURGENCY,
TERRORISM, &
GUERRILLA WAR,
FROM THE
AMERICAN
REVOLUTION
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WILLIAM R. POLK

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Von William R. Polk : Violent Politics: A History of Insurgency, Terrorism, and Guerrilla War, from the American Revolution to Iraq before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Violent Politics: A History of Insurgency, Terrorism, and Guerrilla War, from the American Revolution to Iraq:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. bersicht ber Strukturen von AufstndenVon M. MeyerWilliam R. Polk ist ein anerkannter Experte fr den Nahen Osten und widmet sich in diesem Buch Aufstnden und Guerillakriegen. Er stellt dabei zunchst die These auf, dass sich gewisse Strukturen und Phnomene stetig wiederholen. Danach geht er historisch einzelne Konflikte durch (Amerikanischer Unabhngigkeitskampf, Spanien, Irland, Indochina/Vietnam, etc.) und weist hier diese Element nach.Gut: Polk verliert sich nicht in militrhistorischen Anekdoten oder Schlachtengeschichte. Er stellt stets den Gesamtzusammenhang dar und bleibt auf einer sehr abstrakten Ebene. Leser, die sich fr einzelne Episoden besonders interessieren, mssen sich weiterfhrende Literatur zuwenden.Polk sieht die Chancen einen Aufstand zu bekmpfen als allgemein schlecht. Er weist deutlich auf die Kosten (nicht nur die finanziellen) der laufenden Operationen im Irak und in Afghanistan hin.Leider nur 4 Sterne, da Polk am Ende seines Buches die Frage, wie man den nun mit Aufstnden umgehen muss, nach meinem Ermessen unbeantwortet lsst. Dazu empfehle ich die RAND Studie "The Soviet Union and Muslim Guerilla Wars, 1920-1981: Lessons for Afghanistan", die Alexandre Bennigsen 1981 verfasst hat.

KurzbeschreibungIn the current Middle East, insurgency tactics are used with frequency and increasing success. But guerrilla war-fare is not just the tool of modern-day terrorists. Its roots stretch back to our very own revolution.In Violent Politics, William Polk takes us on a concise, brilliant tour of insurgencies throughout history, starting with the American struggle for independence, when fighters had to battle against both the British and the loyalists, those colonists who sided with the monarchy. Instinctively, in a way they probably wouldn't have described as a coherent strategy, the rebel groups employed the tactics of insurgency.From there, Polk explores the role of insurgency in several other notable conflicts, including the Spanish guerrilla war against Napoleon, the Irish struggle for independence, the Algerian War of National Independence, and Vietnam. He eventually lands at the present day, where the lessons of this history are needed more than ever as Americans engage in ongoing campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraqand beyond.PressestimmenHe provides ample proof that occupying armies...find it excruciatingly difficult to use legitimacy to defeat local insurgents and then exit gracefully. (Foreign Affairs)Opening in dramatic fashion with a pithy and powerful chapter about the American insurgency against the British, Polk then analyzes 10 other insurgencies in the modern era, emphasizing their uniform motivation: native opposition to foreign power. . . . As always Polk provides stern and articulate rebuttal to neoconservative approaches. . . . Concise, compelling, and important, this work seamlessly integrates international history and current events. (Booklist)A captivating but disquieting examination of how insurgencies begin, grow, persist and either succeed or fail. . . . Eye-opening. . . . A lucid, absorbing analysis of the theory and reality underpinning three centuries of insurgent movements. (Kirkus s)KurzbeschreibungIn the current Middle East, insurgency tactics are used with frequency and increasing success. But guerrilla war-fare is not just the tool of modern-day terrorists. Its roots stretch back to our very own revolution.In Violent Politics, William Polk takes us on a concise, brilliant tour of insurgencies throughout history, starting with the American struggle for independence, when fighters had to battle against both the British and the loyalists, those colonists who sided with the monarchy. Instinctively, in a way they probably wouldn't have described as a coherent strategy, the rebel groups employed the tactics of insurgency.From there, Polk explores the role of insurgency in several other notable conflicts, including the Spanish guerrilla war against Napoleon, the Irish struggle for independence, the Algerian War of National Independence, and Vietnam. He eventually lands at the present day, where the lessons of this history are needed more than ever as Americans engage in ongoing campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraqand beyond.