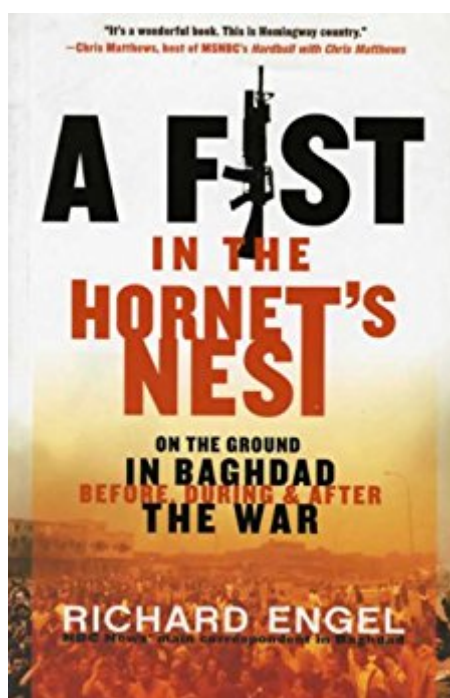


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A Fist In The Hornet's Nest: On The Ground In Baghdad Before, During & After The War



Synopsis

When war broke out in Iraq, every major U.S. network pulled its correspondents from the scene. Despite the risk, Richard Engel stayed. As our tanks entered Baghdad in April 2003, he was there, bringing the Iraqi war into American homes as a stringer for ABC news. Determined to deliver the whole Middle East story, Engel moved to Cairo in 1996 after graduating from Stanford to learn 'street' Arabic. Then to dig even deeper into the complicated powder-keg of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he settled in Jerusalem. Now as Iraq enters its post-war phase and the Gulf region continues to dominate our nation's consciousness, more and more Americans will come to know and trust Richard Engel--especially in his current role as a correspondent for NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw. Both analytical and anecdotal, this book leads us through the war in Iraq, dissecting a myriad of Middle East issues, all from the vantage point of someone who is 'on the ground and in the streets' to get the real story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Think what you like about national news networks and their perfectly polished journalists. Then think

again what it is like to be in Iraq during the shock and awe days of the Gulf War, asleep in your hotel bed, to wake up from the sound of a truck bomb and find shrapnel stuck in the wall above your bed. This is what NBC News Chief Foreign Correspondent Richard Engel has been through just to give you the news in a brief two minute package. And this is just a small taste of what "A Fist in the Hornet's Nest" is about. If you are interested in becoming a foreign correspondent for a news organization or if you want to be a freelance journalist -- this is the book to read. You get the cold, hard truth about living in a country whose culture is vastly different than yours. You will learn why it is necessary to cultivate friendships, trust and find safe houses. These are all things ANY foreign correspondent, freelance or not, should know. Richard's book tells it like it is. If you just want to learn more about the man you see on the NBC Nightly News, read this book and then "War Journal" which takes you through the last four years of the Iraq War. There is so much more to Richard Engel than the classically handsome face on your TV. His life and experiences in the Middle East give you an inside look as to why his reports from there are so spot on -- each and every time.

Richard Engel not only tells a good story, he educates you in the process. Watching news on TV or even reading accounts online or in newspapers does not give you the true story or details about our mess in the Middle East, but his books do. As far as I know he has written 3 books on his life living in the area, and as a journalist covering the Middle East conflicts. They are all "page-turners"! He has certainly explained not only the wars going on over there, but taught me the history of why and how they are happening. EXCELLENT READS!!!

I could not put this book down. I was glad to get the information regarding the middle east that was contained in this book. I only wish this sort of information made it into our news media.

Richard is a wonderful person and writer. I love his books, and if I wasn't so old and ugly I'd make a hit on him. I think he's terrific and so dedicated. I ENJOY HIS REPORTS.

We never really appreciate the sacrifices some journalist make to bring us an understanding of the 'beat' they cover. I purchased this book because I have, for a long time, appreciated Richard Engel, NBC's chief foreign correspondent. What I learned was all he did to educate himself about the Middle East, both historically and currently. It takes a very special person to give up all the comforts and conveniences of home to bring the reality of the most troubled area in the world to Americans. Everyone should read this book if they want to go behind the scenes of the invasion and war in Iraq.

This book is a must read for anyone who has interest in recent current events / current events. I was about eleven when the war in Iraq began and have pretty much grown up watching it all on the news. The Middle East is constantly changing (even to this day) and this book showed me more than what you find in news reports. It taught me a little about the political situation over there and the different cultural players. Very interesting read. Thanks to Richard Engel for writing it and for putting himself in the middle of the dangerous places of the world to tell us exactly what happened so we don't have to.

Richard Engel's new book, "A Fist in the Hornet's Nest", gives us a rare look into Iraq at the time of last year's American invasion. Nicely setting the tone of pre-war Iraq, Engel then takes us down the path of a city...Baghdad... in the sudden throes of war. Combining ingenuity, "street smarts" and a certain amount of luck, he gives us a view that no embedded correspondent could have done....a view that incorporates ordinary Iraqis going about their daily life with the inevitable hardships that they faced, and still do. The author is not shy about revealing his own thoughts regarding the American attack and occupation, but he does so in a way that offers perspectives based on what he saw, the people with whom he spoke and his general knowledge of the Middle East, having lived there prior to April, 2003."A Fist in the Hornet's Nest" could be more rightly described as a journal although he doesn't proceed in an exact timeline format. Richard Engel's writing is crisp and articulate and moves forward with a sense of urgency. He has provided a valuable addition to the history of this war and an assessment of where it might go.

Not a particularly in-depth account, but definitely a vivid, first-person story of Engel's experiences. Having traveled quite a bit in the Middle East, he had me sold within the first 10 pages due to our similar experiences.If you want a similar story but much, much more in-depth, try Pity the Nation.

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