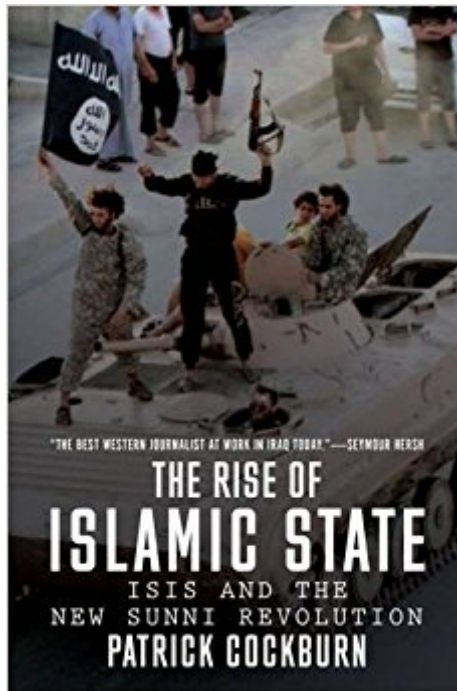




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The Rise Of Islamic State: ISIS And The New Sunni Revolution



Synopsis

The essential “on the ground” report on the fastest-growing new threat in the Middle East, from the winner of the 2014 Foreign Affairs Journalist of the Year Award Born of the Iraqi and Syrian civil wars, the Islamic State astonished the world in 2014 by creating a powerful new force in the Middle East. By combining religious fanaticism and military prowess, the new self-declared caliphate poses a threat to the political status quo of the whole region. In *The Rise of Islamic State*, Patrick Cockburn describes the conflicts behind a dramatic unraveling of US foreign policy. He shows how the West created the conditions for ISIS’s explosive success by stoking the war in Syria. The West—the US and NATO in particular—underestimated the militants’ potential until it was too late and failed to act against jihadi sponsors in Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Quite simply, the best Western journalist at work in Iraq today.” —Seymour Hersh
“Accessible | Cockburn describes a continuing tragedy in which hubris and optimism destroyed a seemingly promising revolution.” —New York Times
“Amid the many books published on the current conflicts reshaping the Middle East, few are as informative or perceptive as *The Rise of Islamic State*.” —Observer
“Patrick Cockburn has produced the first history of the rise of the Islamic State | No one is better equipped for this task | Indispensable.” —Daily Telegraph
“Patrick Cockburn spotted the emergence of ISIS much earlier than anybody else and wrote about it with a depth of

understanding that was just in a league of its own. Nobody else was writing that stuff at that time, and the judges wondered whether the Government should consider pensioning off the whole of MI6 and hiring Patrick Cockburn instead.

- British Journalism Awards judges – “A wonderful book.”
- Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, BBC News – “Excellent.”
- Richard Norton-Taylor, Guardian – “An invaluable history of IS along with a powerful critique of Western policy in Iraq and Syria and an unsparing analysis of Shia politics in Baghdad.”
- Hugh Roberts, London Review of Books – “His dispatches from Iraq are an exemplary untangling of the political and social complexity that lies behind one of the world’s great crises. He writes fairly, compassionately and clearly, with a steady and knowledgeable eye.”
- Orwell Prize judges – “The essential primer on the organization.”
- Vice – “Patrick Cockburn, of the London Independent, is one of the best informed on-the-ground journalists. He was almost always correct on Iraq.”
- Sidney Blumenthal, in an email to Hillary Clinton – “Has anyone covered this nightmare [in the Greater Middle East] better than the world’s least embedded reporter, Patrick Cockburn? Not for my money. He’s had the canniest, clearest-eyed view of developments in the region for years now.”
- Tom Engelhardt, TomDispatch – “Authoritative.”
- Washington Post

Patrick Cockburn is currently Middle East correspondent for the Independent and worked previously for the Financial Times. He has written three books on Iraq’s recent history, including *The Occupation and Saddam Hussein: An American Obsession* (with Andrew Cockburn) as well as a memoir, *The Broken Boy* and, with his son, a book on schizophrenia, *Henry’s Demons*, which was shortlisted for a Costa Award. He won the Martha Gellhorn Prize in 2005, the James Cameron Prize in 2006, the Orwell Prize for Journalism in 2009 and is the winner of the 2014 Foreign Affairs Journalist of The Year Award.

Author Patrick Cockburn is clearly very knowledgeable on this subject, having worked as a journalist in the Middle East for 36 years. ‘The Rise of the Islamic State’ contains a lot of very useful information to help people understand what is going on with the rise of this new (or maybe more accurately-reborn) jihadist group. It’s clear that the mess that is the Middle East defies simplistic western meddling and proposed solutions. We in America continue to be our own worst enemy in our attempts to “nation build” and so on. In that respect, it was worth reading. I have to strongly qualify any recommendation, however, and suggest that interested readers survey reviews of other

books on this subject before choosing this one. My concerns are similar to those of other reviewers:

1. The book is poorly organized to the point of being confusing at times. The story would perhaps have benefitted from being organized chronologically, rather than by subjects which messily overlapped.
2. The book is distressingly repetitive. I think this is due to poor organization and to the following:
3. The book reads like it was a series of news articles that were then hurriedly mashed together to create a book. The seeming rushed nature was undoubtedly caused by the need to get the book into the public's hands quickly while the topic is very hot and current.
4. Author Cockburn pontificates a lot!
5. There is some, but not nearly enough background information on the major groups that make up this unbelievably messy conflict.

Patrick Cockburn is clearly a capable expert and writer on this extremely important group and associated Middle East issues. I hope he will either clean up this book or take more time and write a more comprehensive and clear follow-up book.

For a such a short book and recent event, the book is fantastic, stunning and a must read. Hope the history changes and the story becomes different.

Very interesting and easy to read. The book is written with a journalist style so a nice mix of analysis and description of events. Probably this is also the limit of the book itself. Certain parts would have deserved deeper analysis at the expense of easy reading.

If you weren't worried about isis before reading this, you will be afterwards! Helps you to understand the dynamics of the conflict in the Middle East.

This book explained the complex development of ISIS, JAN, etc. throughout the Middle East. If anyone has a desire to get a different explanation of what's actually going on with ISIS, then you should give this book a read.

Excellent book about ISIS and the nature of the conflicts in Iran and Syria. You will have trouble listening to most pundits (experts?) on the topic in the evening news after reading this book, but maybe that is a good thing!

A very respected journalist gives a good understanding of this crisis. My second reading brought it to life even more and I am now waiting for an update to present day

From the beginning, I discovered this book was going to lead to headaches as I read it. Not because of the writing, but because of the number of groups involved and their changing names and ideologies. ISIS (also known as ISIL) began as Al-Qaeda in Iraq. It was determined to break the back of the Shia majority in Iraq and raise the Sunnis to complete power. Backed financially by countries such as Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE (all supposed US Allies) they began to undermine Iraq's government. They then moved into Syria with the goal of bringing down Assad and his government. They worked alongside an alphabet soup of different groups, until they determined they wanted all the power. And, they are working quickly to obtain it by whatever means necessary. Things continue to change in the ISIS theater of war, making the writing of a book that is totally up to date almost impossible. Just when everyone thinks ISIS has gone as low as they can go, they hit a new low point. The book that exists explains ISIS and other organizations, how they interact and what the goals of these groups are. I think overthrow and control of the entire Middle East. If you are concerned about ISIS and the threat it poses, then this is a must read book. It is well written and contains the back story that so many news outlets never give. Reading this book scared me, as I don't believe any solution is in sight without a ground war. It saddens me to say it, but this group may start World War III.

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