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Syria: Descent Into The Abyss: An Unforgettable Anthology Of Contemporary Reportag



Synopsis

This remarkable anthology of reportage chronicles more than three years of spiralling violence and despair in Syria: atrocity heaped upon atrocity, misery upon misery, and all - so far - to no avail. No faction is without blood on its hands; no crime, from torture to poison gas, has been deemed taboo. The dead are too numerous to count : the UN mid-2014 figure of 190,000 is one of the more conservative estimates. As for the living, close to 3 million refugees have fled Syria, with millions more internally displaced. How did we come to this? There is no better way to answer this question than to revisit The Independent's published accounts of the unfolding tragedy. Spearheaded by peerless and profoundly experienced correspondents such as Patrick Cockburn, Robert Fisk, Kim Sengupta, our coverage has led the world in its fearlessness and insight. Syria's tragedy is not yet over. Perhaps it has not even reached its final act. One day, however, historians will ask themselves how an ancient and proud civilisation was reduced to ruins, a century-old regional settlement reduced to irrelevance and a generation of innocent civilians condemned to live in a vicious, desolate war-zone. When they do so, the testimony and analysis in this volume could provide a valuable starting-point.

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Customer Reviews

This anthology is probably the best record so far of the Syrian conflict. It is very thorough (almost 13,000 'locations' for those of you who speak Kindle), but allows you to relive the whole depressing story again-- if you care to-- as told by some of the most experienced and respected journalists in the region. Because it's a collection of articles meant to stand on their own the reading can get a little repetitive, and every few pages there's another reminder of who the Alawites are, or what happened in Hama in '82. And although it lacks the cohesion of a published book, it also lacks the hindsight bias that colors most current writing about Syria, which is quite refreshing. I'd highly recommend this anthology to anyone who has a bit of background knowledge about the region and wants a refresher on just what the hell happened to Syria. It won't give you any prophesying about the future, but it's probably the best thing out there for catching you up on the past 3 years.

For anyone wanting to remotely understand the sectarian nature of the war in Syria, this book is essential. The horror show that is Syria is not easy to figure out because of the atrocities committed by all sides (and believe me there are over 140 different agendas). The committed and determined interference and aid from the Foreign Governments in the middle east add to the perplexity. In the midst of the Jihadi groups and Sunni/Shia mutual hostility, there are also thugs and criminals causing havoc and creating horror and misery. I found it fascinating to observe over 4 years, the changing attitudes of both Britain and the USA â " from Assad must go to Assad must step aside. This is recommended reading for the likes of Donald Trump.

The many articles chronologically build a picture of the situation on the ground and allow one to draw conclusions they might not otherwise reach.

Great collection of news reporting over 3 years but a lot of repetition. Editing could have helped make the book more focused

Important first draft of history in one book.

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