



Tell Me How This Ends: General David Petraeus and the Search for a Way Out of Iraq

By Linda Robinson

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After a series of disastrous missteps in its conduct of the war, the White House in 2006 appointed General David Petraeus as the Commanding General of the coalition forces. *Tell Me How This Ends* is an inside account of his attempt to turn around a failing war.

Linda Robinson conducted extensive interviews with Petraeus and his subordinate commanders and spent weeks with key U.S. and Iraqi divisions. The result is the only book that ties together military operations in Iraq and the internecine political drama that is at the heart of the civil war.

Replete with dramatic battles, behind-doors confrontations, and astute analysis, the book tells the full story of the Iraq War's endgame, and lays out the options that will be facing the next president when he or she takes office in January 2009.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Robinson (author in residence, Johns Hopkins Univ.; *Masters of Chaos*) tackles a subject that has been the focus of the nation's attention since 2003. Although it can be easy to overlook yet another book on Iraq, she brings an insider's perspective to the subject. Based on her reporting, interviews, travels to Iraq, and unpublished sources, her book focuses on both military and political issues, lessons learned in the early years of the war, General Petraeus's approach to the latter phase of the war, the results of his approach, and suggestions for the next administration. Robinson does a great job of refreshing the reader's memories about events in Iraq before and after Petraeus; however, her own right-leaning political beliefs occasionally come through, and some readers may find her tone one-sided. For those less well versed in the Iraq War, a map and a list with the "Principal Cast of Characters" come in handy. Recommended for larger public and academic libraries.—Jenny Seftas, Southwest Florida Coll. Lib., Fort Myers

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Review

“New York Times Notable Book of the Year”

James Traub, *New York Times Book Review*, October 5, 2008

“...the first book about this new Iraq. It’s a first-rate piece of work, probing and conscientious.”

David Kirkpatrick, *The New York Times*, October 26, 2008

“an admiring account of the troop “surge” in Iraq that Mr. McCain was among the first to embrace.”

Colonel Gregory Fontenot, *Military Review*, November/December issue

“As a rule, hyperbole is permissible for the ‘blurbs’ on the jacket of books and not in reviews, but in the case of Linda Robinson’s *Tell Me How This Ends*, it’s a hard one to follow. Robinson’s book is among the best written about the war in Iraq....”

Military Times, November 17, 2008

“The author who persuaded press-shy Special Forces soldiers to open up in the fascinating “Masters of Chaos: The Secret History of the Special Forces” (PublicAffairs, 2004) has done it again. This time, she persuaded Petraeus — now head of U.S. Central Command — and others in Iraq to talk, and she listened. And evidently, she took good notes. The result is not as dramatic as “Chaos,” but given the themes — politics and management — the insights in “Tell Me How This Ends” make the book worthwhile contemporary history and, foremost, military biography.”

John Nagl, Army Magazine, December issue

“Likely to remain the best analysis of General Petraeus’ role in the decisive years of the war in Iraq short of the general’s own memoirs.”

About the Author

Linda Robinson is the bestselling author of *Masters of Chaos* and author in residence at the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies' Strategic Studies Program. A Contributing Editor for *US News and World Report*, she received the Gerald R. Ford Prize for Reporting on National Defense in 2005 and was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University 2000-01. She lives outside Washington D.C.

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