



Operation Hotel California: The Clandestine War Inside Iraq

By Mike Tucker, Charles S. Faddis

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The untold story of the CIA's secret mission inside Iraq to prepare for the invasion of Iraq--from the secret team leader who led the 2003 mission.

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Editorial Review

Review

"*Among Warriors in Iraq* is hard-boiled and absorbing. Mike Tucker also has Hemingway's eye for description, particularly of warriors."

BOOKLIST.

"In *Hell Is Over: Voices of the Kurds after Saddam*, Mike Tucker tells a story we should know, but would not expect for his bravery."

Senator Bob Kerrey, member of 9/11 Commission.

From the Inside Flap

The Iraq War most of us know began on March 20, 2003, with the U.S.-led invasion. In fact, it began more than eight months earlier—on July 10, 2002—when eight Americans crossed the Harburr River from Turkey into Kurdistan. Carrying side arms and assault rifles, the CIA counterterrorist team soon linked up with Kurdish *peshmerga* to commence their mission: strike and kill Al-Qaeda, and take down Saddam Hussein's Baathist dictatorship.

They endured almost a year of being denied food, weapons, and ammunition by a NATO ally, Turkey, as they carried out a covert operation with profound consequences on the War on Terror, the Iraq War, and U.S. foreign policy: Operation Hotel California.

Drawing on exclusive interviews with the man who led the CIA team, *Operation Hotel California* tells the story of the dangerous mission that paved the way for the invasion of Iraq. In a riveting narrative, much of it in the words of the operation's leader—publicly identified here for the first time as Charles S. "Sam" Faddis—Mike Tucker chronicles a staggering trail of corruption and incompetence by the Bush White House, from pursuing federal tax cuts rather than Al-Qaeda in spring 2001, to pandering to Turkey at the expense of America's fight against Saddam and Islamic terrorists.

With compelling portrayals of the courageous men on Faddis's team and first-hand accounts of how America's finest tracked and took down the *Mukhabarat* assassination squads Saddam had sent to kill them, *Operation Hotel California* captures fully the thrills and frustrations of hunting the nation's most fanatical enemies. And—as the most blistering indictment to date by any American counterterrorism officer of the national security blunders vis-à-vis Iraq and Al-Qaeda—it carries lessons that will reverberate in Washington and beyond for years to come.

From the Back Cover

The definitive inside account of the secret CIA mission that paved the way for the U.S. invasion of Iraq—a book with vital lessons for America's ongoing struggle against Al-Qaeda

The Iraq War most of us know began on March 20, 2003, with the U.S.-led invasion. In fact, it began on July 10, 2002, when a CIA counterterrorist team crossed the Harburr River from Turkey into Kurdistan. *Operation Hotel California* tells the inside story of this dangerous mission, which had profound

consequences on the War on Terror, the Iraq War, and U.S. foreign policy.

Authors Mike Tucker and Charles S. Faddis—the leader of the courageous CIA team—capture the thrills and frustrations of hunting the nation’s most fanatical enemies on their turf. They also deliver the most blistering indictment to date by any U.S. counterterrorism officer of America’s blunders vis-à-vis Al-Qaeda and Iraq. Carrying lessons especially relevant today, as the current administration seeks to disengage from Iraq while continuing to fight extremists in Afghanistan and beyond, *Operation Hotel California* is a must-read about the complexities and dangers of American covert operations.

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