



Voices from Iraq: A People's History, 2003-2009

Mark Kukis

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"Baghdad fell on a Tuesday I think. I went driving around our neighborhood, Karada, with my husband a day or two after that just to have a look around. The looters were everywhere. I saw women and children pushing trolleys full of things out of an old intelligence office. At the national theater, they were loading a garbage truck with the seats from inside, and streams of people were coming out carrying all kinds of props. I saw plastic models of the planets bopping down the streets in the arms of thieves. They took everything you can imagine taking from a theater. Everything."—Azhar Abdul-Karim Abdul-Wahab, lecturer in political science, Baghdad University

Featuring the testimony of close to seventy Iraqis from all backgrounds and occupations—from onetime Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi to insurgents speaking on the condition of anonymity—*Voices from Iraq* builds a riveting chronological history unmatched for its insight and revelations. Beginning in 2003, this intimate narrative includes the experiential accounts of civilians, politicians, former dissidents, and present insurgents, enhanced by Mark Kukis's compelling individual portraits. Divided into five parts, it recounts the 2003 invasion; Iraq's gradual slide into chaos from 2004 to 2005; the start of a new order in 2006; the rise in open sectarian violence over the next two years; and the effort since 2008 to reconstruct a society from relative calm. Each section includes about fifteen interviews grouped into themes, with brief epilogues for the participants. Not since Studs Terkel's *The Good War* has a book captured so acutely the human consequences of a conflict we still struggle to understand. *Voices from Iraq* is essential for anyone in search of the meaning and legacy of America's campaign in Iraq.



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