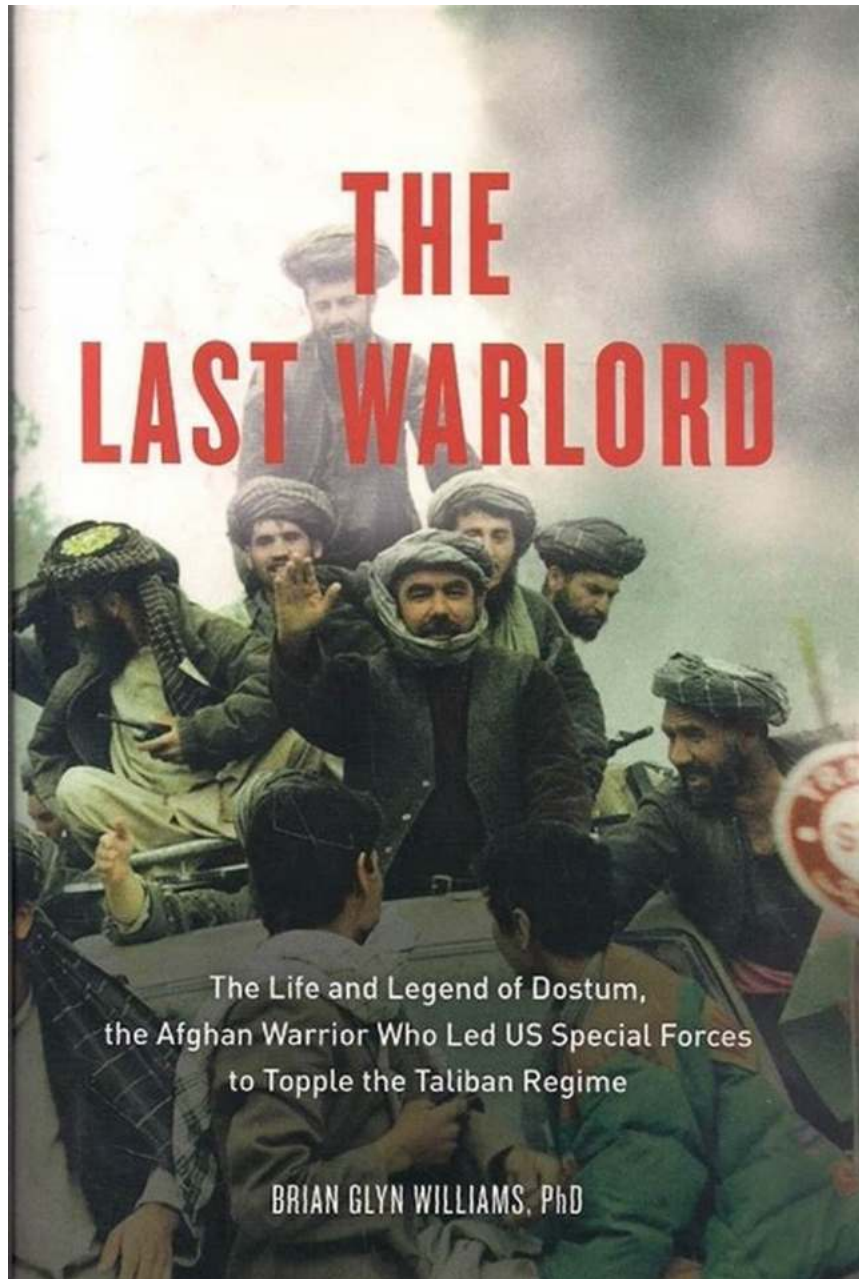


The Life And Legend Of Dostum: The Afghan Warrior Who Led US Special Forces To Victory



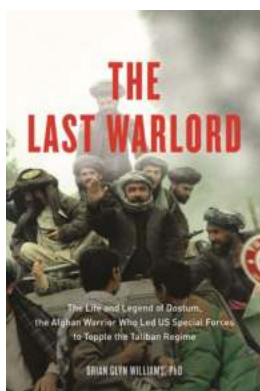
The Early Years of Dostum

Abdul Rashid Dostum, born in 1954, is a legendary Afghan warlord and a prominent figure in the country's recent history. He hails from the Uzbek minority

ethnic group in Afghanistan and rose to fame for his remarkable military tactics and leadership skills.

Rise to Power

Dostum gained significant influence during the Soviet-Afghan War in the 1980s, where his extraordinary military strategies and charismatic personality led him to become one of the most renowned Afghan warlords. His forces, known as the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, played a crucial role in the resistance against Soviet forces.



The Last Warlord: The Life and Legend of Dostum, the Afghan Warrior Who Led US Special Forces to Topple the Taliban Regime by Brian Glyn Williams (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 3402 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 372 pages
Lending : Enabled



Collaboration with US Special Forces

Following the Soviet withdrawal, Dostum continued to play a vital role in Afghan politics and military affairs. During the United States' invasion of Afghanistan in response to the 9/11 attacks, Dostum emerged as a key ally, working closely with the US Special Forces to oust the Taliban regime and capture key terrorist figures.

The Battle of Kunduz

One of the most significant moments in Dostum's career was the Battle of Kunduz in late 2001. Dostum, along with his forces and US Special Forces, successfully besieged and captured the city of Kunduz, dealing a major blow to the Taliban and securing a crucial victory for the coalition forces.

Challenges and Controversies

Despite his military successes, Dostum's leadership style has been criticized by some for its alleged human rights violations and brutal tactics. There have been multiple allegations of war crimes committed by his forces, including the infamous Dasht-i-Leili massacre in 2001, where hundreds of Taliban prisoners were reportedly suffocated to death in containers.

Dostum's Political Career

After the fall of the Taliban regime, Dostum remained an influential figure in Afghan politics. He held various government positions, including Vice President of Afghanistan, and played a significant role in mediating political disputes and maintaining stability in the war-torn country.

Legacy and Impact

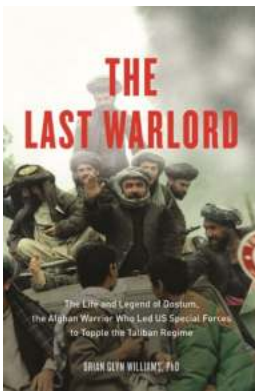
Abdul Rashid Dostum remains a controversial figure in Afghan history, with supporters considering him a national hero who fought against oppression and defended the rights of minorities, while critics accuse him of human rights abuses and maintaining an authoritarian style of leadership.

In any case, Dostum's military prowess, strategic genius, and collaboration with US Special Forces undoubtedly played a crucial role in the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan. His ability to mobilize and lead forces effectively and his

unwavering determination to bring stability to his country have cemented his place in both Afghan and military history.

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1. "Afghan Warlord in Coalition Is Quoted as Urging Uprising" by C.J. Chivers, The New York Times
2. "Abdul Rashid Dostum" by Encyclopaedia Britannica
3. "Claims that Dostum executed prisoners questioned" by Fariba Nawa, Al Jazeera



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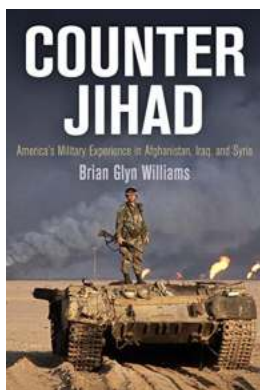
Chronicling the spectacular rise to power of General Abdul Rashid Dostum, this is an intimate profile of the one of the most powerful warlords to have dominated Afghanistan in the years since the Soviet withdrawal in the late 1980s. His rise from simple peasant villager to warrior against the repressive policies of the Taliban and Al Qaeda is told by one of the few outsiders to be accepted into

Dostum's stronghold in the northern deserts of Afghanistan. Thanks to this unprecedented access, author Brian Glyn Williams was able to conduct lengthy interviews with Dostum and his family, as well as his subcommanders, local chieftains, mullahs, Taliban enemies, prisoners of war, and women's rights activists. What emerges is an intensely personal account of the Mongol warlord, detailing his childhood, motivations, hopes for his country, and conviction that it is time for a new generation of Western-trained technocrats to shape his country's destiny. With the drawing down of U.S. troops in 2014 and Dostum poised to reenter the world stage to fight a resurgent Taliban, this timely analysis provides important historical context to the controversy swirling around Afghanistan's warlord culture and is an essential contribution to the debate on Afghanistan's future.

The Last Warlord tells the spellbinding story of the legendary Afghan warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, a larger-than-life figure who guided US Special Forces to victory over the Taliban after 9/11. Having gained unprecedented access to General Dostum and his family and subcommanders, as well as local chieftains, mullahs, elders, Taliban prisoners, and women's rights activists, scholar Brian Glyn Williams paints a fascinating portrait of this Northern Alliance Uzbek commander who has been shrouded in mystery and contradicting hearsay. In contrast to sensational media accounts that have mythologized the "bear of a man with a gruff laugh" who "some Uzbeks swear, has on occasion frightened people to death," Williams carefully chronicles Dostum's rise from peasant villager to Uzbek leader and skilled strategist who has fought a long and bitter war against the Taliban and Al Qaeda fanatics that have sought to repress his people. Also revealed is Dostum's surprising history as a defender of women's rights and religious moderation.

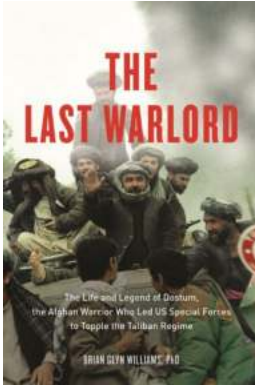
In riveting detail *The Last Warlord* spotlights the crucial Afghan contribution to Operation Enduring Freedom: how the CIA contacted the mysterious warrior Dostum to help US Special Forces wage a covert war in the mountains of Afghanistan, how respect and even friendship quickly grew between the Afghan and American fighting men, and how Dostum led his nomadic people charging into war the same way his ancestors had—on horseback. The result was one of the most decisive campaigns in the entire war on terror. *The Last Warlord* shows that, far from serving as an exotic backdrop for American heroics, it was these horse-mounted descendants of the Mongol warrior Genghis Khan that allowed the American military to overthrow the Taliban regime in a matter of weeks.

With the United States drawing down troops in 2014 and Dostum poised to re-enter the world stage to fight a resurgent Taliban, *The Last Warlord* is vital to understanding Afghanistan's warlord culture and how it factors into Afghanistan's past and future.



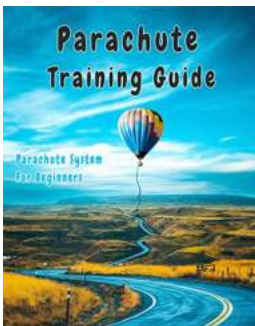
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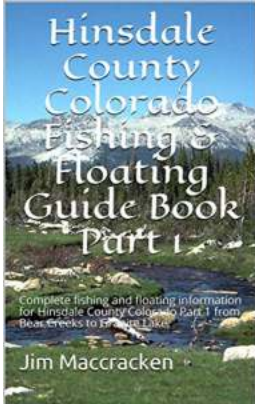
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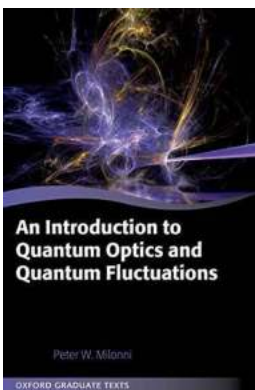
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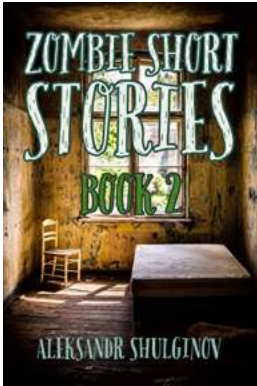
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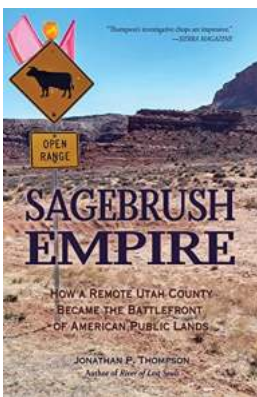
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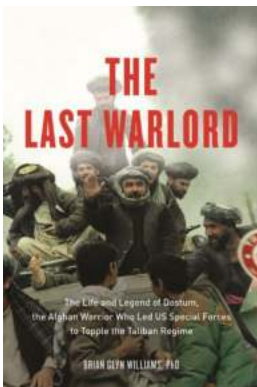
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