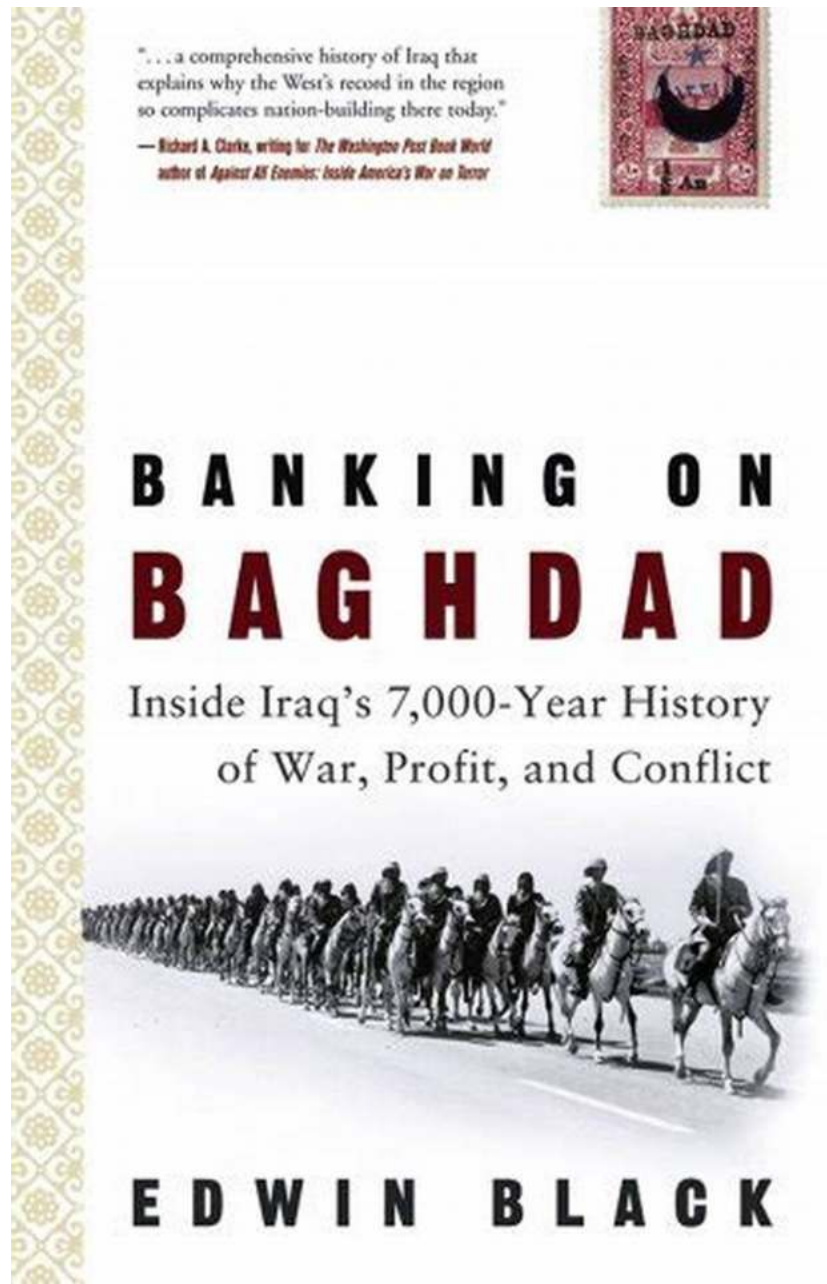


The Untold Story: Inside Iraq's 5,000 Year History of War, Profit, and Conflict

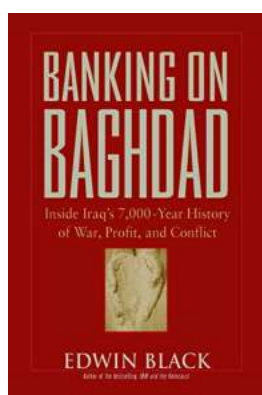


Iraq, a land rich in history and culture, has been a battleground for millennia. The cradle of civilization, Mesopotamia, gave birth to some of the world's first

organized societies and empires. However, behind its ancient wonders lies a turbulent past marked by centuries of war, profit, and conflict.

The Birth of Empires

The history of Iraq can be traced back over 5,000 years. It all began in Mesopotamia, the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. This fertile region attracted nomadic tribes who settled and formed the world's first city-states, such as Sumer, Akkad, and Babylon.



Banking on Baghdad: Inside Iraq's 7,000-year History of War, Profit, and Conflict

by David Aaronovitch (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 18609 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 576 pages



These early civilizations thrived due to their advanced agricultural techniques, irrigation systems, and trade networks. However, their prosperity came at a price. Constant competition for resources and power led to frequent wars between neighboring city-states.

The Rise and Fall of Babylon

Babylon, the most iconic of ancient Mesopotamian cities, emerged as a dominant power in the 18th century BCE under the rule of Hammurabi. His famous legal

code, Hammurabi's Code, shaped the region's laws for centuries to come.

Yet, the rise of Babylon also marked the beginning of a long cycle of invasions and conquests. The city fell to Assyria in the 8th century BCE, only to be later captured by the Persians. Alexander the Great conquered it in the 4th century BCE, and the list goes on.

The Islamic Golden Age

In the 7th century CE, an Islamic empire emerged, bringing stability to the region and ushering in a golden age of science, art, and culture. Baghdad, the new capital, became a center of learning, attracting scholars from around the world.

However, this age of enlightenment was not immune to conflict. Power struggles within the Islamic empire, as well as invasions from Mongols and Crusaders, severely impacted Iraq's progress and stability.

The Ottoman Empire and European Intrigues

In the 16th century, Iraq became a part of the Ottoman Empire, which ruled over the region for four centuries. During this time, European powers began interfering in the affairs of the empire, igniting tensions and conflicts.

World War I marked a turning point for Iraq. The crumbling Ottoman Empire was divided by the British and French, with Iraq falling under British control. The discovery of oil in the region further fueled foreign interests, leading to decades of exploitation.

Saddam Hussein and Modern Conflicts

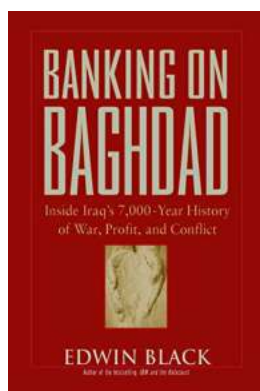
The 20th century witnessed a series of power struggles within Iraq. Saddam Hussein rose to power in the 1970s, leading Iraq into a period of brutal

dictatorship and regional conflicts.

The Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s and the Gulf War in the early 1990s left a devastating impact on Iraq's infrastructure and society. The 2003 invasion by a coalition led by the United States toppled Hussein's regime but plunged the country into further chaos and sectarian violence.

The history of Iraq is a testament to the human desire for power, wealth, and dominance. From ancient empires to modern conflicts, the land has witnessed the rise and fall of civilizations, leaving behind scars that still shape its present.

Understanding Iraq's rich and complex history is crucial in comprehending the challenges it faces today. Only through knowledge and empathy can we strive for a future free from war, profit-driven conflicts, and the cycle of destruction.



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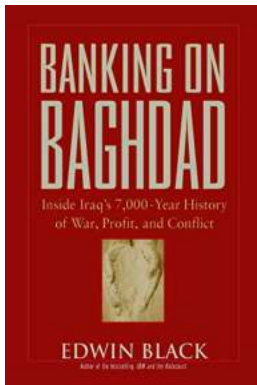
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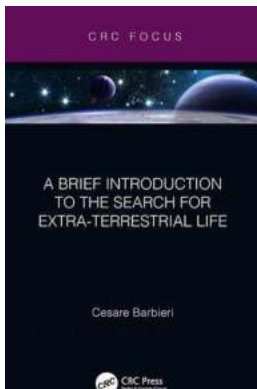
In Banking on Baghdad, New York Times and international bestselling author Edwin Black chronicles the dramatic and tragic history of a land long the center of world commerce and conflict. Tracing the involvement of Western governments

and militaries, as well as oil, banking, and other corporate interests, Black pinpoints why today, just as throughout modern history, the world needs Iraq's resources—and remains determined to acquire and protect them. Banking on Baghdad almost painfully documents the many ways Iraq's recent history mirrors its tumultuous past.



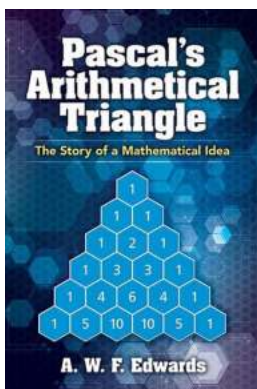
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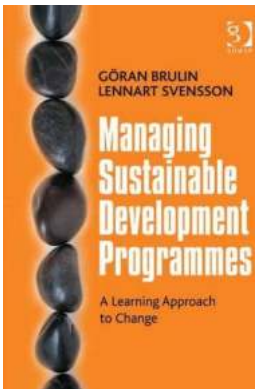
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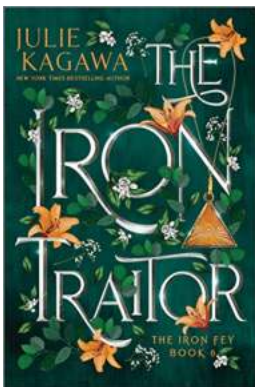
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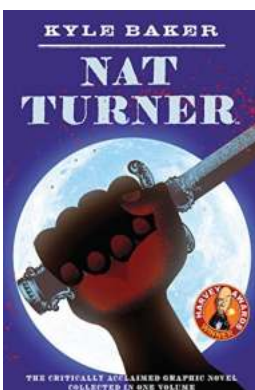
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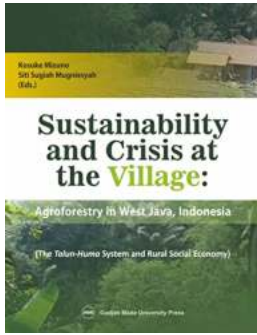
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