

Publications

Western Intervention and Informal Politics: Simulated Statebuilding and Failed Reforms

Troels Burchall Henningsen
London: Routledge 2022
USD \$128
210 pages

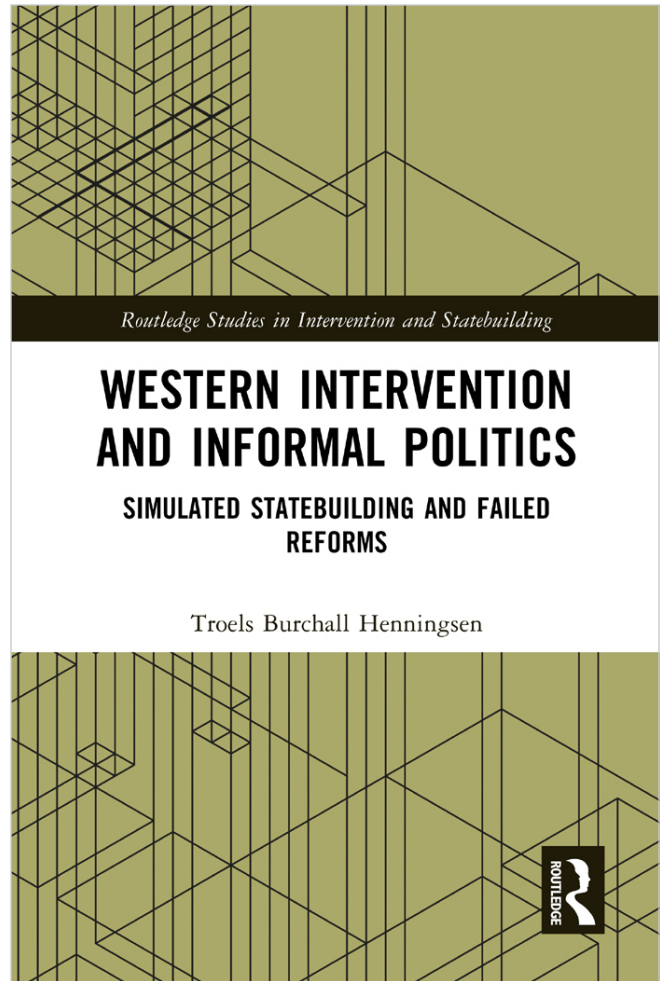
This book examines the political and military dynamic between threatened local regimes and Western powers, and it argues that the power of informal politics forces local regimes to simulate statebuilding.

Reforms enabling local states to take care of their own terrorist and insurgency threats are a blueprint for most Western interventions to provide a way out of protracted internal conflicts. Yet, local regimes most often fail to implement reforms that would have strengthened their hand. This book examines why local regimes derail the reforms demanded by Western powers when they rely on their support to stay in power during existentially threatening violent crises. Based on the political settlement framework, the author analyses how web-like networks of militarized elites require local regimes to use informal politics to stay in power. Four case studies of Western intervention are presented: Iraq (2011-2018), Mali (2011-2020), Chad (2005-2010), and Algeria (1991-2000). These studies demonstrate that informal politics narrows strategic possibilities and forces regimes to rely on coup-proofing military strategies, to continue their alliances with militias and former insurgents, and to simulate statebuilding reforms to solve the dilemma of satisfying militarized elites and Western powers at the same time.

This book will be of much interest to students of statebuilding, international intervention, counter-insurgency, civil wars, and international relations.

About the author

Troels Burchall Henningsen is an assistant professor in the Institute for Strategy and War Studies at the Royal Danish Defence College.



*Baghdad Underground Railroad:
Saving American Allies in Iraq*

Steve Miska

Onward Press, 2021

USD \$16

306 pages

In 2007, Iraq was in the midst of violent sectarian cleansing. Col. Steve Miska led a team within the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division (known as Dagger Brigade) that established an underground railroad from Baghdad to Amman to the U.S. for dozens of Iraqi interpreters facing near-certain death at the hands of the “death squads” that hunted down and slaughtered interpreters and their families.

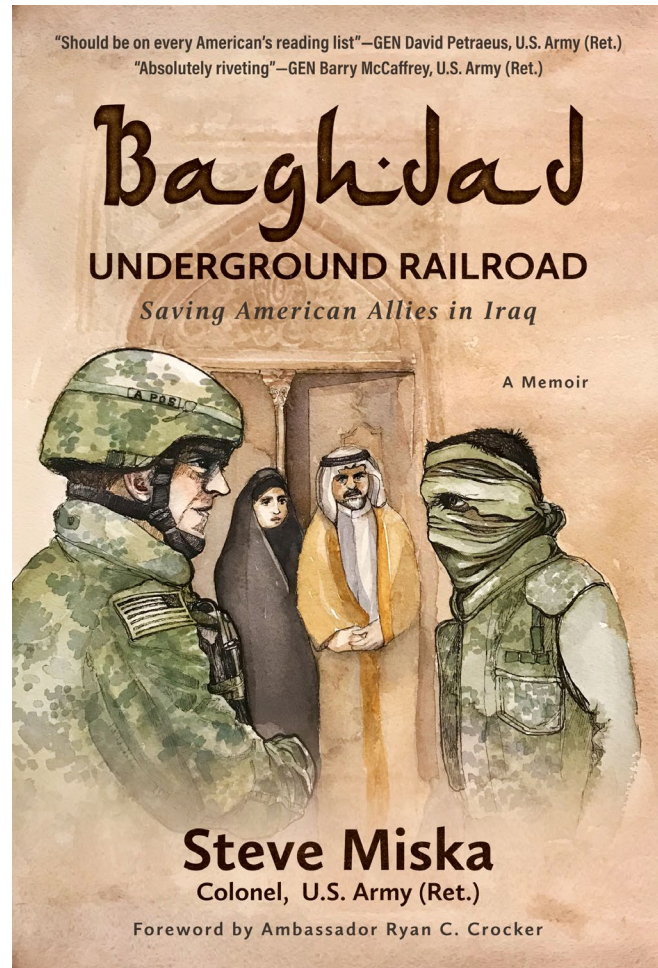
The mostly young men and women who embraced American idealism risked their lives to support U.S. service members in countries where understanding the language, the people, and the contours of the culture are often a matter of life and death. Yet, according to recent estimates, more than 100,000 interpreters and at-risk family members remain in Iraq and 70,000 remain in Afghanistan, each in grave danger.

The plight of Iraqi and Afghan interpreters left behind by the United States remains one of the most significant human rights issues of the Global War on Terrorism, America’s longest, and ongoing, military conflict.

Baghdad Underground Railroad is a sober reminder of the far-reaching human and national security consequences of abandoning U.S. allies in countries of conflict. Above all, it is an exploration of universal questions about hope, brotherhood, and belonging—questions that strike at the heart of who we are as a people and as a nation.

About the author

Col. Steve Miska served as an officer in the United States Army for 25 years before retiring in 2015. From 2011 to 2012, Steve served in the White House as Director for Iraq on the National Security Council. He has written extensively about the need to protect soft networks, and has acted as an advisor to several non-profits that aim to support and protect foreign military interpreters,



including No One Left Behind and the International Refugee Assistance Project. He is the Founder & CEO of Servant Leader Citizen (SLC) Consulting, which exists to educate others about national security and counterterrorism issues in an increasingly global environment, and executive director of the non-profit First Amendment Voice, a nonpartisan effort to reinvigorate civic awareness about First Amendment issues.

Image Credits

Page 1 and 5: Photo by Airman 1st Class Joseph Morales, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Public Affairs.

Page 8: Senior Master Sgt. Darrick Mischke, the Petroleum, Oils and Lubricants (POL) superintendent assigned to the 119th Logistics Support Squadron, prepares to accept a “Jet-A fuel” delivery at the North Dakota Air National Guard Base, Fargo, North Dakota, 2 May 2018. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David Lipp.

Page 11: Solar Panels at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Utah. USFWS Mountain-Prairie, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

Page 12: US Air Force photo by Nick Tarasenko, AFRL/RDTA, Official United States Air Force Website, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

Page 16: Mapboard at the NATO Allied Land Command (LANDCOM) Headquarters, 10 April 2019. NATO photo by U.S. Army Lt. Col. David Olson, LANDCOM Public Affairs.

Page 18: Photo by Lance Cpl. Elijah Abernathy.

Page 19: US Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Diana Sims.

Page 26: A US Air Force contractor uses a voltmeter to test the amount of electrical current going through wires at Yokota Air Base, Japan, 15 January 2021. Photo by Jeremy Croft, US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District.

Pages 29 and 30: US Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Joseph Morales, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Public Affairs.

Page 34: Armenian soldiers patrol at the checkpoint outside Agdam to let last vehicles leave the region late on 19 November 2020. Photo by Karen Minasyan/AFP via Getty Images.

Page 36: Golden, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Page 38: Photo by Resul Rehimov/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images.

Page 42: CCDC Army Research Laboratory, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

Page 47: Composite Special Operations Component Command (C-SOCC) with Belgium and Denmark as a NATO Response Force. Ministerie van Defensie, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons.

Page 49: Photo DigitalGlobe via Getty Images/ISIS via Getty Images.

Page 50: Helicopter Weapon Instructors Course 2020. Ministerie van Defensie, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons.

Page 54: Marines with Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command observe computer operations 5 February 2020 in the cyber operations center at Lasswell Hall, Fort Meade, Maryland. Original photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob Osborne, US Marines. Photo has been modified.

Page 56: Photo by Staff Sgt. Alexandre Montes, 70th ISR Wing.

Page 60: US Air Force photo by 432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

Terms of Copyright

Copyright © 2022. The copyright of all articles published in *CTX* rests with the author(s) of the article, unless otherwise noted. The *Combating Terrorism Exchange (CTX)* is a peer-reviewed, quarterly journal available free of charge to individuals and institutions. Copies of this journal and the articles contained herein may be printed or downloaded and redistributed for personal, research, or educational purposes free of charge and without permission, except if otherwise noted. Any commercial use of *CTX* or the articles published herein is expressly prohibited without the written consent of the copyright holder.

Call for Submissions

The *Combating Terrorism Exchange* (CTX) is a quarterly peer-reviewed journal. We accept submissions of nearly any type, from anyone; however, submission does not guarantee publication. Our aim is to distribute high-quality analyses, opinions, and studies to military officers, government officials, and security and academic professionals in the irregular warfare community. We give priority to non-typical, insightful work and to topics concerning countries with the most pressing terrorism and CT issues.

Submission Guidelines

For detailed submission guidelines, go to <https://GlobalECCO.org> and click on the CTX Home link. Then click on Submissions in the left menu bar.

CTX accepts the following types of submissions. Please observe the following length guidelines:

- **academic analyses** (up to 6,000 words)
- **reports or insightful stories from the field** (up to 5,000 words)
- **photographic essays**
- **video clips** with explanation or narration
- **interviews** with relevant figures (videos no longer than 15 minutes, transcriptions no longer than 6,000 words)
- **book reviews** (up to 2,000 words), review essays (up to 2,000 words), or lists of books of interest (which may include books in other languages)
- reports on any **special projects**
- Any kind of submission can be **multimedia**.

Submissions should be sent in original, workable format. In other words, we must be able to edit your work in the format in which you send it to us, such as Microsoft Word—no PDFs, please.

Submissions must be in English. Because we seek submissions from the global CT community, and especially look forward to work that will stir debate, *we will not reject* submissions outright simply because of poorly written English. However, we may ask you to have your submission edited before submitting again.

Ready to Submit?

By making a submission to CTX, you are acknowledging that your submission adheres to the requirements listed above, and that you agree to the CTX Terms of Copyright, so read them carefully. The CTX Terms of Copyright appear at the end of page 67.

Submit to CTXEditor@GlobalECCO.org

If you have questions about submissions, or anything else, contact CTXEditor@GlobalECCO.org

Submission Requirements

Submissions to CTX must adhere to the following:

- Submissions must be original and not have appeared in any other publication.
- The work must be copyedited for basic errors *prior to* submission.
- Citations should adhere to the *Chicago Manual of Style*. See the latest version at <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>
- The work submitted may not be plagiarized in part or in whole.
- You must have permission to use any images, videos, or statements included in your work.
- You must agree to our Terms of Copyright, which appear at the bottom of page 62.
- Include a byline as you would like it to appear and a short bio as you would like it to appear (we may use either, or both).