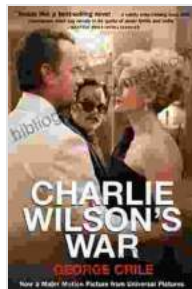


Charlie Wilson's War: The Extraordinary Story of How the CIA and a Congressman Created the Mujahideen



Charlie Wilson's War by George Crile

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3917 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 797 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Charlie Wilson's War is a fascinating and in-depth look at one of the most controversial and consequential episodes in American history. George Crile's book tells the story of Charlie Wilson, a gregarious and charismatic Texas congressman who, together with CIA operative Gust Avrakotos, played a pivotal role in arming and training the Afghan mujahideen in their fight against the Soviet Union.

Crile's meticulously researched account draws on interviews with Wilson, Avrakotos, and other key players, as well as declassified documents, to provide a gripping narrative that is both illuminating and thought-provoking. The book has been praised for its insights into the complexities of international relations, the role of the CIA, and the consequences of America's involvement in Afghanistan.

The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan

In 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in an attempt to prop up a communist government that was facing a growing insurgency. The invasion sparked international outrage and marked the beginning of a decade-long war that would have far-reaching consequences.

The United States, which had been providing limited support to the Afghan resistance, now stepped up its involvement. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a directive authorizing the CIA to provide covert aid to the mujahideen. Charlie Wilson, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, played a key role in securing funding for the program.

The CIA and the Mujahideen

The CIA's covert aid program to the mujahideen was one of the most successful in its history. The agency provided the rebels with weapons, training, and intelligence, which helped them to turn the tide against the Soviet forces.

One of the most important figures in the CIA's program was Gust Avrakotos, a Greek-American operative who had a deep understanding of the Afghan culture and landscape. Avrakotos played a key role in forging relationships with the mujahideen leaders and ensuring that the CIA's aid reached the front lines.

The Consequences of America's Involvement in Afghanistan

The Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989, but the war continued for several more years. The United States continued to provide support to the mujahideen, but its involvement in the country gradually decreased.

In the wake of the Soviet withdrawal, Afghanistan descended into a civil war. The mujahideen, who had been united in their fight against the Soviets, now turned on each other. The country became a breeding ground for terrorism, and the Taliban, a fundamentalist Islamic group, eventually seized power.

The consequences of America's involvement in Afghanistan are still being felt today. The country remains unstable, and the Taliban continues to pose a threat to the region.

Charlie Wilson's Legacy

Charlie Wilson died in 2010, but his legacy continues to live on. He is remembered as a maverick politician who was not afraid to challenge the status quo. His work in Afghanistan helped to shape the course of the Cold War and had a profound impact on the country's history.

George Crile's *Charlie Wilson's War* is a must-read for anyone interested in American history, international relations, or the war in Afghanistan. Crile's meticulously researched account provides a fascinating and in-depth look at one of the most controversial and consequential episodes in American history.



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