

### Proxy War

The current military situation in Taiz is a stalemate between the Houthis and a diverse, loosely formed coalition of anti-Houthi groups. Foreign powers play an important role in the conflict by seeking to impose their own goals through sponsorship of armed factions and political groups. As a strategic location abutting Saudi Arabia's southern border and the shipping lanes of the Red Sea, Yemen holds importance for several foreign powers' regional agendas. This has led many commentators to analyze the conflict through the lens of proxy warfare. Yet this lens can easily misrepresent the war as one in which Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, and Iran move their proxies like chess pieces seeking comparative advantage, while also reducing the war as a whole to these movements. It is not only a matter of misdiagnosing the dynamics involved; framing the conflict as primarily a proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia complicates efforts to resolve the conflict. The framing provides strategic advantages for many of the belligerent parties who use it to fuel their war efforts. The narrative itself further internationalizes the conflict, obscuring the essential nature of the war in Yemen, which is at heart an internal Yemeni political conflict.

Turkey is committing crimes against humanity across a region spanning Asia, the Middle East and Africa. This book is the first to explain the machinations that the country's leader, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has put in motion in his rise to power from leading the Muslim Brotherhood's Istanbul branch to President. The atrocities being committed are ongoing and continue against a backdrop of global condemnations of the dismal security situation and violence that exists within areas controlled by Turkish forces. The book highlights the long-simmering conflict between Turkey and its Kurdish minority, which has spread further afield and resulted in the targeting of the Kurdistan Workers' Party in Iraq even as popular discontent grows against the Erdogan regime at home and abroad. Erdogan's murky political and military-strategic agenda is further exacerbated by Turkey's fomentation of ISIS and deployment of the terrorist group's militants. This book describes how Turkish intelligence operatives smuggled ISIS militias into Libya and Azerbaijan, who then carried out heinous war crimes with the intent to destabilize the region. Moreover, the desperate situation of Syrian refugees has been exploited by the Turkish administration, which has hijacked their plight in a cynical manoeuvre to exert political pressure on Europe while also routing refugees into Kurdish territory, dubbing it a "safe zone". The Muslim world does not know enough about Erdogan's dangerous authoritarian leadership and its grave consequences. This book aims to change that by revealing the continuity between Pan Islamism, Turkish Islamisation, and Erdogan's proxy militias, and how those interrelationships have led to war crimes against Kurdish people in Iraq and Syria.

When Peter finds himself on a strange planet, drafted into a war by alien abductors, his only goal is to be one of the few to survive the war and return home to Earth. Peter is one of thousands who get abducted every year, as payment to the aliens. The aliens have given humans portal travel, healing serums, and other advanced alien technology. The quality of life has improved, but everything has a price. Along with a group of strangers Peter is trained for war by going up against literal monsters. The troll-like aliens won't give them modern weapons. Humans have to battle monsters with swords and shields, and that is just to get out of boot camp. His only chance to survive is to use the alien device he is given. The device can increase his strength and speed to superhuman levels. It can even grant him powers that seem like magic. Complicating things is that the device's interface is written in an ever-changing alien language. He will have to figure out its secrets if he wants to keep himself and his team alive. A Science Fantasy novel with LitRPG elements.

Iqbal was squatting in front of Major Kushagra; his AK47 and knife were within reach. Kushagra's mission was not yet over. He could not let Iqbal go scot free. He had to eliminate him quietly. "You killed Major Thakur with your knife from behind, you coward!" Kushagra had a khukhri in his hands and the sniper covered him. The khukhri kills without a sound....

Memperkokoh keutuhan Negara Kesatuan Republik Indonesia (NKRI) menjadi suatu hal yang mutlak bagi bangsa Indonesia. Mempertahankan kedaulatan NKRI menjadi suatu kewajiban bagi segenap komponen bangsa Indonesia. Saat ini spektrum potensi ancaman nasional tidak lagi bersifat tradisional seperti zaman dahulu, namun lebih banyak diwarnai ancaman non tradisional. Sumber ancaman telah mengalami pergeseran makna, bukan hanya meliputi ancaman dari dalam negeri ataupun dari luar negeri, tetapi juga ancaman proxy yang bersifat global tanpa bisa dikategorikan sebagai ancaman dari luar atau dari dalam. Cara-cara untuk menghancurkan Negara Indonesia tidak lagi hanya dengan kekuatan perang fisik dan kekuatan militer, tetapi juga dengan kekuatan nirmiliter, dengan melemahkan kekuatan ideologi, politik, ekonomi dan sosial budaya. Melalui proxy war tidak dapat dikenali dengan jelas siapa kawan dan siapa lawan karena musuh mengendalikan non-state actors dari jauh. Proxy War adalah bentuk peperangan dengan menggunakan pihak ketiga sebagai kepanjangan tangan dari pihak-pihak tertentu, untuk menghindari perselisihan secara langsung, sekaligus terhindar dari beban moral politik internasional. Pihak pengganti yang dimaksudkan, yaitu; pemerintahan, violent non-state actors berupa LSM, Ormas, kelompok. Cara, karakter dan modus operandi dari ancaman juga berubah menjadi multidimensional. Oleh karenanya untuk mengantisipasi terhadap ancaman saat ini, harus dilakukan secara lebih komprehensif baik dari aspek sumber, sifat dan bentuk, kecenderungannya, maupun isu yang sesuai dengan dinamika kondisi lingkungan strategis. Buku ini memberikan pengetahuan bagi bangsa Indonesia mengenai ancaman bagi negara. Untuk itu, buku ini wajib dibaca oleh semua lapisan masyarakat.

During the Cold War, war by proxy was a key strategy of indirect conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union. The purpose of these proxy wars was to either maintain or change the balance of power between the superpowers/great powers in conflict areas outside the central front in Europe. Within the condition of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD), both the United States and the Soviet Union sought to avoid direct confrontation between their conventional military forces in regional conflicts out of a fear that it would escalate to an all out nuclear war. Proxy wars represent a perennial strand in the history of conflict. The appeal of 'warfare on the cheap' has proved an irresistible strategic allure for nations through the centuries. However, proxy wars remain a missing link in contemporary war and security studies. In this timely book Andrew Mumford sheds new light on the dynamics and lineage of proxy warfare from the Cold War to the War on Terror, whilst developing a cogent conceptual framework to explain their appeal. Tracing the political and strategic development of proxy wars throughout the last century, they emerge as a dominant characteristic of contemporary conflict. The book ably shows how proxy interventions often prolong existing conflicts given the perpetuity of arms, money and sometimes proxy fighters sponsored by third party donors. Furthermore, it emphasizes why, given the direction of the War on Terror, the rise of China as a global power, and the prominence now achieved by non-state actors in the 'Arab Spring', the phenomenon of proxy warfare is increasingly relevant to understandings of contemporary security. Proxy Warfare is an

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indispensable guide for students and scholars interested in the evolution and potential future direction of war and conflict in the modern world.

An Unscrupulous Intelligence Agency Like The ISI Which Has Been Waging A Proxy War Against India For Past Two Decades.... A State Like Pakistan Which Is In Search Of An Identity.... A Militia Like Taliban Which Is Created By These Two To Make Afghanistan The Fifth Province Of Pakistan.... And A Fanatic, Firebrand Muslim Like Osama Bin Laden Who Is Convinced That One Day In Afghanistan (Is) Like A Thousand Days Of Praying In An Ordinary Mosque . Kargil Was Inevitable In The Wake Of All This. It Happened. More Kargils Are Inevitable, Worldwide. Dagestan, Tatarstan, Bashkiriya, Ingushetia, North Ossetia (In Russia), Xinjiang (China), Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan.... The List Is Long. One Man Is Trying To Make It All Happen Bin Laden. One Powerful Secret Agency Is Hand-In-Glove With Him In All This The ISI. Pak Proxy War: A Story Of ISI, Bin Laden And Kargil Focuses On The Saudi Civil Engineer-Turned-Terrorist, Bin Laden, The Taliban And The ISI And How A Combination Of All These Factors Led To Pakistan Army S Intrusion In Kargil. The Book Calls For Taking A Pro-Active Rather Than A Reactive Approach To Pakistan S Threat Of More Kargils Be Paid Back In The Same Coin : More Bangladeshs . Contents Part I: Kargil Chapter 1: The Intrusion, Chapter 2: A Man Called Pervez Musharraf, Chapter 3: Operation Topac, Chapter 4: Making Of The Line Of Control. Part II: Pakistan: A Rogue State? Chapter 5: Pakistan Army, Chapter 6: Terrorist Training Camp In Afghanistan And Pakistan, Chapter 7: Markaz-Ud-Daawa-Wal-Irshad (Mdi), Chapter 8: Sipah-E-Sahiba Pakistan (Ssp). Part III: A State Within A State Chapter 9: Inter Services Intelligences (ISI), Chapter 10: Profile Of Some Pakistan-Backed Militant Outfits, Chapter 11: Lashkar-E-Tayyiba, Chapter 12: Tehrik-E-Jehad. Part IV: Bin Laden And Taliban Chapter 13: Osama Bin Laden, Chapter 14: Taliban. Part V: Appendices Appendix 1: Diary Of A Pakistani Soldier, Appendix 2: Pakistan S Role In Fostering Terrorism In Kashmir: Facts And Figures, Appendix 3: Indo-Pak Military Balance, Appendix 4: Political And Constitutional Developments In J&K Since 1947.

The low number of recognized interstate wars in Africa since 1950 suggests three interlinked (but false) conclusions i.e., that African states are uniquely pacifistic, that they are particularly constrained against waging interstate war, and that whatever wars do take place are of necessity occasioned by the failure to restrain violent internal challengers such as warlords, secessionists, or dissident political factions. In contrast to these positions, my extensive analyses of primary and secondary data on African wars clearly indicate that African states frequently deploy violent means against one another, albeit through armed intermediaries in multi-actor wars. African 'multi-actor wars' are thus overwhelmingly proxy wars; and this, given the predominance of multi-actor wars in the African war record, merits the selection of proxy wars as the phenomenon of interest in the study of African wars from 1950 to 2010. In order to examine the nature of this form of war, and explain when, where and why the use of proxies by states against one another constitutes a compelling explanation of empirical reality, I constructed an original dataset of major African conflicts using conventional (i.e., theory-neutral) indicators of war during the period under examination. This 'Events List' contains 27 unique conflicts featuring 101 partnerships between a sponsoring state and one or more intermediaries. For each of these conflicts and partnerships (i.e., levels of analysis for multi-actor war) I added data on relevant variables and deployed a two-stage mixed-methods design to test particular rival hypothesis against my own theoretical propositions about proxy war.

Examines the military operations that emerged from the Japanese invasion of Southern China. Opens a new window on this rarely studied theater in World War II and shows for the first time how the conflict served as a "proxy war" to support aims more in line with the goals of the Allied nations than with China's.

This is a curated and comprehensive collection of the most important works covering matters related to national security, diplomacy, defense, war, strategy, and tactics. The collection spans centuries of thought and experience, and includes the latest analysis of international threats, both conventional and asymmetric. It also includes riveting first person accounts of historic battles and wars. Some of the books in this Series are reproductions of historical works preserved by some of the leading libraries in the world. As with any reproduction of a historical artifact, some of these books contain missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. We believe these books are essential to this collection and the study of war, and have therefore brought them back into print, despite these imperfections. We hope you enjoy the unmatched breadth and depth of this collection, from the historical to the just-published works.

This book offers a historical analysis of the geopolitical and geoeconomic competition between the USA and Russia, which has recently heated up again due to the eastward expansion of NATO. The analysis departs from an exploration of the USA's foreign policy and geopolitical ambitions by illustrating the influence of Wall Street and the military-industrial complex on the country's political decision-making. The historical review covers a wide timespan, from the Second World War and the birth of NATO, to the wars against Iraq and Afghanistan, to the rebellions that erupted in Eurasia, Northern Africa and the Middle East in the 2010's, as well as the wars in the Ukraine and in Syria. By doing so, it reveals the influence of US neocons, the US intelligence services and the military complex on the Arab Spring, the Color Revolutions and the armed conflicts in Ukraine and Syria. Ultimately, the book depicts a new era of worldwide instability and disorder, dominated by violence and arbitrariness.

Selected non-political speeches of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, born 1926, former prime minister of India.

This edited collection aims to analytically reconceptualise the Syrian crisis by examining how and why the country has moved from a stable to a war-torn society. It is written by scholars from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, all of whom make no attempt to speculate on the future trajectory of the conflict, but aim instead to examine the historical background that has laid the objective conditions for Syria's descent to its current situation. Their work represents an attempt to dissect the multi-layered foundation of the Syrian conflict and to make understanding its complex inner workings accessible to a broader readership. The book is divided into four parts, each of which elaborates on the origins and dynamics of today's crisis from the perspective of a different discipline. When put together, the four parts provide a holistic picture of Syria's developmental trajectory from the early twentieth century through to the present day. Themes addressed include Syria's postcolonial development efforts, its leap into socialism and then into neoliberalism in the late twentieth century, its politics within the resistance front, and finally its food and health security concerns.

When the Syrian regime used sarin and other chemical weapons against dissidents in August 2013, an estimated 1729 people were killed including 400 children. President Barack Obama warned that the use of chemical weapons would constitute a "red line", but he refused to take military action. Trump's approach has been even more disengaged and lacking in clarity. Frontline Syria highlights America's failure to prevent conflict escalation in Syria. Based on interviews with US officials involved in Syria policy, as well as UN personnel, the book draws conclusions about America's role in world affairs and its potential to

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prevent deadly conflict. It also highlights the role of front-line states in Syria and other countries who engaged in the Syrian conflict to advance their national interests. Covering key turning points in the Syrian civil war, including the impact of recent decisions by the Trump administration, Frontline Syria critically evaluates America's global power and provides a diplomatic and military history of the conflict. Based on this analysis, the book offers policy recommendations and makes a case for America's future role addressing peace and conflict.

The Objective Of This Volume Is To Highlight India`S Relations With Her Neighbouring Countries Such As Pakistan, China And Bangladesh And To Show How Through Different Wars India Survives As A Strong Nation And To Demonstrate How Competently The Country`S Leadership Had Been Handling The Various Challenges In The Last Quarter Of The Twentieth Century.

The most common image of world politics involves states negotiating, cooperating, or sometimes fighting with one another; billiard balls in motion on a global pool table. Yet working through local proxies or agents, through what Eli Berman and David A. Lake call a strategy of "indirect control," has always been a central tool of foreign policy. Understanding how countries motivate local allies to act in sometimes costly ways, and when and how that strategy succeeds, is essential to effective foreign policy in today's world. In this splendid collection, Berman and Lake apply a variant of principal-agent theory in which the alignment of interests or objectives between a powerful state and a local proxy is central. Through analysis of nine detailed cases, Proxy Wars finds that: when principals use rewards and punishments tailored to the agent's domestic politics, proxies typically comply with their wishes; when the threat to the principal or the costs to the agent increase, the principal responds with higher-powered incentives and the proxy responds with greater effort; if interests diverge too much, the principal must either take direct action or admit that indirect control is unworkable. Covering events from Denmark under the Nazis to the Korean War to contemporary Afghanistan, and much in between, the chapters in Proxy Wars engage many disciplines and will suit classes taught in political science, economics, international relations, security studies, and much more.

Iqbal was squatting in front of Major Kushagra; his AK47 and knife were within reach. Kushagra's mission was not yet over. He could not let Iqbal go scot free. He had to eliminate him quietly. "You killed Major Thakur with your knife from behind, you coward!" Kushagra had a khukhri in his hands and the sniper covered him. The khukhri kills without a sound....

The Cold War was a time of ultimate technological, military, and political competition between the United States and the Soviet Union. Proxy wars were fought between countries supported by one of the two superpowers of the United States or the Soviet Union. The United States and Soviet Union put their powers to the test in the arms race and the space race. This book describes how the landscape of war was forever changed as these formidable forces pursued political power through technology and weapons.

This book highlights the existence of a class of struggles conducted in the gray zones of formalized war, or more aptly in the interstices where state power and jurisdiction are mismatched. These "sovereign interstices" are inextricable from the negative spaces of the great war-regulating sovereign orders, but they are also characterized by recurring characteristics among the fighters who are recruited to fight proxy wars within them. States have changed greatly in the last four hundred years, but interstitial fighters have changed far less, and the same can be said of the recurring styles in which their powerful patrons employ them to go where those patrons cannot. By charting these continuities, the author shows how a deeper awareness of interstitial war not only clarifies much concerning our contemporary world at war, but also provides a clear path forward in legal, military, and scholarly terms.

The ability to understand the impact of foreign intervention and its ramifications on conflict is a vital requirement for the United States military. As the United States continues to confront unconventional and irregular global threats, in conjunction with host nation military forces, the ability to understand its impact becomes paramount. This study examines the influence of foreign intervention on war fighting during the Angolan Civil War and analyzes how the various levels of support impacted the successes and failures of the internal warring factions. Through a combination of descriptive and quantitative analysis conclusions are drawn to better understand the relationships between external support and the internal players during the Angolan conflict. These conclusions provide a framework for understanding the impact of foreign intervention and how it affected the prosecution and outcome of the Angolan Civil War. The study also provides a model which can be used to examine past, present, and possible future conflicts. This model can be used as a tool for strategic planners to understand the impact of external support and how it can influence their operations. It also allows for the development of a strategic plan that uses the appropriate level of support to a faction or government engaged in conflict to create a strategic result that supports national foreign policy objectives.

PROXY WAR Volume One: Phantom War Trilogy Written by E.L. Speed Foreword (Introduction) by Dr. Angela Browne-Miller "Proxy War immerses us in a fascinating yet chilling, romantic yet troubling story of love, war, heroism, confusion, and intrigue. Against the disturbing backdrop and hidden truth about the Vietnam War, E.L. Speed's fascinating piece of historical fiction, Proxy War, tells the tale of two dishonest and strong willed presidents, a young diplomat on the brink of treason, and its star protagonist, a naval aviator and war hero. This hero, living the moral dilemma of the period, is increasingly and dangerously conflicted about his role in the War. Nevertheless, he puts his life on the line daily as he fights a Proxy War in the skies over Vietnam. Modern warfare and international affairs teach us that a proxy war is a particular type of war, a war played out in someone else's backyard in hopes of keeping it away from home.... "Proxy War is indeed far, far more than a war story. This is the timeless story of the search for honor, truth, and dignity - all in the context of an intensely controversial war and a perilous global Cold War reality, both landmark predicaments of those times. The reader glimpses death as an acceptable solution but only if it is not meaningless. Duty, a rather complex psychological phenomenon, provides the key to understanding choices made, such as the choice to continue fighting while questioning war's very raison d'etre." Dr. Angela Browne-Miller Foreword, Proxy War Editor, Violence and Abuse in Society Author, To Have and To Hurt Metaterra(r) Publicatio

Public debate over surrogate forces and proxy warfare has been largely dormant since the end of the Cold War. The conventional wisdom has been that with the end of the U.S.- Soviet rivalry, state sources of support for proxy guerrilla, insurgent, and terrorist organizations dried up, forcing them to look to criminal activity to survive and precipitating the growth of dangerously independent and well-resourced militants, mercenaries, and warlords. But in the few years since 2001, a wide range of issues raised to prominence by wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere suggest that armed proxies, and the forces that drive and shape their use, are part of a larger dynamic. From the legacies of the wars in the Balkans, Afghanistan, and Kashmir, to the growth of privatized security and military companies, and to increased reliance on intermediaries of all kinds, these surrogate forces bear further study. Making Sense of Proxy Wars is the first book to seriously challenge Cold War assumptions about terrorism and proxy warfare, offering an alternative view of armed surrogates—whether they are private armies, indigenous militias, or unwilling victims—as complex, selfinterested actors on the international stage.

When the XSS Cousteau makes First Contact with the Rheas, a pre-space flight alien race, it creates an opportunity for humanity for an economic windfall for Earth. After 300 years of paying tribute to their benefactor, the Vrene, they can use the money. Humanity will make the Rheas a vassal race to humanity and pay tribute in exchange for protection from other advanced

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civilizations. Only the Chzek already have a claim on the Rheas, who they want to enslave to serve their empire. And, unknown to the humans, the Chzek are long-time enemies of the Vrene. With little choice, humanity and a Chzek vassal race are made proxies of their more advanced benefactors and fight Earth's first interstellar war. Questions arise as Commander Kree and others realize the Vrene were preparing Earth to fight this war with their enemy for hundreds of years. Did their "benefactor" set them up to fight a war they do not want and cannot afford? Or, did the Vrene do them a favor preparing them for a war they were already destined to fight as the Chzek expand their empire? Earth Interstellar is fast paced story of future interstellar conflict with credible representation of war in space.

Chloe is a billionaire hacker in the future who cares little for the deteriorating political situation around the world until she comes face to face with the nuclear destruction of Juliaca Mega City. Relocating to Tokyo for her own safety as the proxy war begins in Peru, she uses her inherited nanomite technology to project herself on the battlefield, helping a group of mercenaries to bring an end to the virtual wars and find out which governments are pulling the strings.

The U.S. has indirectly intervened in international conflicts on a relatively large scale for decades. Yet little is known about the immediate usefulness or long-term effectiveness of contemporary proxy warfare. In cases when neither direct involvement nor total disengagement are viable, proxy warfare is often the best option, or, rather, the least bad option. Tyrone L. Groh describes the hazards and undesirable aspects of this strategy, as well as how to deploy it effectively. Proxy War explores the circumstances under which indirect warfare works best, how to evaluate it as a policy option, and the possible risks and rewards. Groh offers a fresh look at this strategy, using uncommon and understudied cases to test the concepts presented. These ten case studies investigate and illustrate the different types and uses of proxy war under varying conditions. What arises is a complete theoretical model of proxy warfare that can be applied to a wide range of situations. Proxy war is here to stay and will likely become more common as players on the international stage increasingly challenge U.S. dominance, making it more important than ever to understand how and when to deploy it.

This paper will try to answer this question, posed by the title. But, we want to start with the idea that cyber-warfare may be construed to be more than it is. The psychological effects of cyber-warfare may be greater than the real issue, particularly as its interpreted by the media. Another question that comes up is how do we begin to examine a question of law, where little information exists? Now that we're in the 21st century, it's long overdue to fully examine this issue. Although, more than a decade has passed since discussion of this issue began, there are still many questions. What if this thought, this idea, is being "psychologically built" into the minds of people; manipulation? What happens when it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy? I think it's important to begin any discussion of this type with a "what do you mean by attitude". In other words, for us to provide a positive communication environment it's important that we begin by defining certain terms. Let's begin with cyberspace. What is cyberspace? What is, in fact, the meaning of this space? And if cyberspace can really be understood as space, what its resultant role of architecture in this still largely unknown realm? Is all reality then necessarily becoming virtual reality? Who are the architects of cyberspace, and which designing principles should they follow? And if there are really architects involved, why are the contemporary examples of virtual reality environments nowadays then still characterized as banal? Moreover, what does it actually mean to design cyberspace? Which urban metaphors are implemented in the virtual realm, so that in some way familiar notions become apparent in this abstract and technological world? Is cyberspace a novel departure or an extension – perhaps the final extension – of the trajectory of abstraction and dematerialization that has characterized so much modern art, architecture and human experience?

Pak Proxy War A Story of ISI, Bin Laden, and Kargil Kaveri Books

This Book Presents An Incisive Analysis Of The Trends And Prospects Of Pakistan`S Proxy War And Its Wider Ramifications. Specific Recommendations Focus On The Pro-Active Military Measures That Are Necessary To Regain Control Over The Vitiated Security Situation And Restore Normalcy.

This Book Deals With The Kargil War In An Analytical Manner And Will Be Read With Much Pleasure Both By Civilians As Well As By Military Personnel.

Decision makers face a difficult dilemma when perceived threats in another state do not clearly warrant or justify a direct military response. Under such conditions, policy makers may seek to respond indirectly. An especially alluring prospect arises when an indigenous group operating inside the target state appears willing to serve as a proxy and act in the intervening state's interests. Such a proxy seems to provide a significant benefit; it introduces a partner to share the costs and risks involved in influencing affairs in the target state. History, however, shows that pursuing interests in another country through the actions of a third party has mixed results. In some cases, an intervening state benefited greatly from supporting a proxy; in others, states incurred disastrous, unexpected consequences and exorbitant costs. The difference in the types and amounts of costs and benefits raises two questions: what are the costs and benefits of proxy war and how do conditions affect them? To date, proxy war lacks a systematic treatment of its costs and benefits. This dissertation provides such a treatment and arms strategists and policy makers with a framework for considering the potential rewards and risks before making the decision to use a proxy.

By 1959 the newly independent Kingdom of Laos was being transformed into a Cold War battleground for global superpower competition, having been born out of the chaos following the French military defeat and withdrawal from Indochina in 1954. The country was soon engulfed in a rapidly evolving civil war as rival forces jockeyed for power and swelling foreign intervention further fueled the fighting. Adding even more fuel to the fire, "neutral" Laos's geographic entanglement in the intensifying war in neighboring South Vietnam deepened in the early 1960s as Hanoi's reliance on the Ho Chi Minh Trail for moving men and materiel through the southern Laotian panhandle grew exponentially and became a priority target of American interdiction efforts. For almost twenty years, the fighting between the Western-supported Royal Lao government and the communist-supported Pathet Lao would rage across the plains, jungles, and mountaintops largely unseen by most of the world in this so-called "secret war." Thousands on each side would die and many more would be displaced as the conflict on the ground ebbed and flowed from season to season and year to year. And in the skies above, American and Royal Laotian aircraft would rain down their deadly payloads, decimating large swaths of the countryside in pursuit of victory. Nearly 3 million tons of bombs would be dropped on Laotian territory between 1965 and 1973, leaving a deadly legacy of unexploded ordnance that lingers to this day. Thus, the battle for Laos is the story of entire communities and generations caught up in a war seemingly without end, one that pitted competing foreign interests and their proxies against each

other, and one that was forever tied to Washington's pursuit of victory in Vietnam.

The topic of proxy war is currently subject to intense debate with reference to US, British and Israeli accusations that Iran is sponsoring subversive and insurgent movements from Lebanon to Afghanistan; contemporary academic and media controversies over the effect of international assistance to the Afghan mujahidin in the subsequent destabilisation of the country; and the contentious circumstances surrounding the Russo-Georgian war of 2008, and the 'independence' of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. While there is no shortage of academic literature dealing with specific cases of proxy warfare, there is no work providing an overarching analysis of the factors which lead to this type of conflict, or the potential consequences for the states concerned, the non-state proxies and their external patrons. Using examples from post-1945 history, and focusing on three case studies (the Afghan war of 1978-1989, Lebanon 1975-1990, Angola 1975-1991), Geraint Hughes offers terminology intended to clarify scholarly understanding of proxy warfare, a framework for understanding why states seek to use proxies (insurgent groups, militias, terrorist movements, mercenaries, and even organised criminal groups) in order to fulfil strategic objectives, and an analysis of the potential impact of such an indirect means of waging war on not only the states that are subjected to this phenomenon, but also the proxies, their sponsors and the wider international community. This book has a historical focus, but will be of utility to contemporary security scholars, and those involved in political/military policy.

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