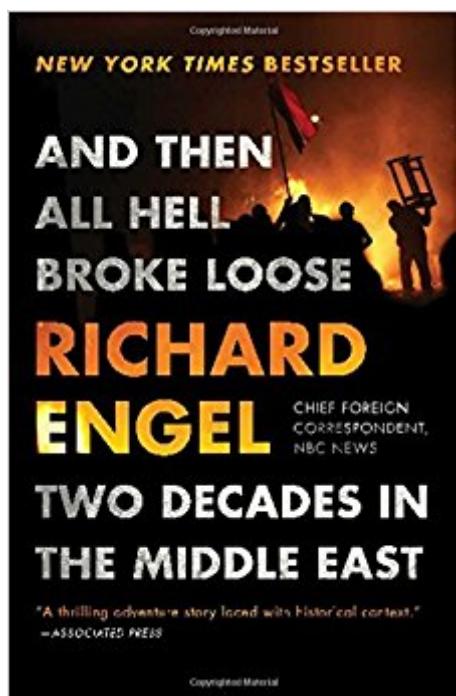


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And Then All Hell Broke Loose: Two Decades In The Middle East



Synopsis

A major New York Times bestseller by NBC's Chief Foreign Correspondent Richard Engel • this riveting story of the Middle East revolutions, the Arab Spring, war, and terrorism seen close up • "should be required reading" (Booklist, starred review). In 1997, young Richard Engel, working freelance for Arab news sources, got a call that a busload of Italian tourists was massacred at a Cairo museum. This is his first view of the carnage these years would pile on. Over two decades he has been under fire, blown out of hotel beds, and taken hostage. He has watched Mubarak and Morsi in Egypt arrested and condemned, reported from Jerusalem, been through the Lebanese war, covered the shooting match in Iraq and the Libyan rebels who toppled Gaddafi, reported from Syria as Al-Qaeda stepped in, and was kidnapped in the Syrian cross currents of fighting. Engel takes the reader into Afghanistan with the Taliban and to Iraq with ISIS. In the page-turning *And Then All Hell Broke Loose*, he shares his "quick-paced...thrilling adventure story" (Associated Press). Engel takes chances, though not reckless ones, keeps a level head and a sense of humor, as well as a grasp of history in the making. Reporting as NBC's Chief-Foreign Correspondent, he reveals his unparalleled access to the major figures, the gritty soldiers, and the helpless victims in the Middle East during this watershed time. His vivid story is "a nerve-racking...and informative portrait of a troubled region" (Kansas City Star) that shows the splintering of the nation states previously cobbled together by the victors of World War I. Engel's harrowing adventures make for gripping reading (The New York Times) and his unforgettable view of the suffering and despair of the local populations offers a succinct and authoritative account of our ever-changing world.

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Customer Reviews

“Engel’s harrowing adventures make for gripping reading . . . he deftly uses them as a portal to look at how the Middle East has changed since he arrived in the region as a young reporter back in 1996. The result is a book that gives readers a brisk but wide-angled understanding of the calamities that have unfurled there over the last two decades . . . for readers looking for an astute, fast-paced overview, this book is a great explainer. . . . Mr. Engel, 42, gives us sharp, unnerving snapshots of events he witnessed and a visceral sense of the daily rhythms of life in Baghdad as the war turned increasingly chaotic . . . What makes Mr. Engel’s tactile eyewitness accounts particularly valuable is that they are fuel-injected with his knowledge of the history and the politics of the region. . . . Mr. Engel writes with great concision — honed, no doubt, by years of having to compress momentous stories into a few minutes on the evening news. (Michiko Kakutani The New York Times)“The author’s quick-paced account is a thrilling adventure story laced with historical context to help readers make sense of the longstanding sectarian hatreds that propel the violence in Iraq and elsewhere. . . . No one can argue that Engel, now NBC’s chief foreign correspondent, missed the boat when he decided to head to the Middle East to cover what he believed would be his generation’s biggest news venue. “My ambition was to ride the train of history, and the train came rumbling right at me.” (Associated Press)“Brisk . . . Engel, the chief foreign correspondent for NBC News, has written an absorbing book about his eventful career. . . . At heart, [the book] is a nerve-racking autobiography by a journalist on the front lines, covering wars and terrorism in Lebanon, Israel, Gaza, Iraq and Syria. On another level, it’s an informative portrait of a troubled region, one that has been unduly influenced by charlatans and madmen and poorly served by two consecutive American presidents, Engel argues. (The Kansas City Star)“[Engel’s] fascinating new book . . . chronicles his often dangerous journey in a complicated neck of the woods. Engel was always restless, driven and filled with wanderlust. . . . Engel has proved to be a fearless reporter. He has covered every major crisis with incredible moxie. . . . Engel spends a large portion of his narrative deftly explaining to us these sectarian differences and their centuries-old history. (The Jerusalem Post)Engel has been in the Middle East, getting a viscerally up-close perspective on these world-historic events. And as this fast-paced and engaging new book makes clear, even if it hasn’t always been easy, Engels’ time in the

Middle East has always been important. (Salon.com) "Engel offers an adventurous overview of the past, present and future of the area. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram) "A deft personal account . . . a lucid, alarming overview of where the Middle East has been and where it is heading. (Kirkus Reviews) "As a print and broadcast journalist with his own boots on the ground in the Middle East for more than 20 years, Engel has seen it all . . . Now Engel takes a long view . . . His grasp of Middle East history is encyclopedic, yet Engel distills the major tenets of geopolitical and religious conflict into comprehensible and comprehensive terms. . . . Clear, candid, and concise, Engel's overview of the ongoing battleground should be required reading for anyone desiring a thorough and informed portrait of what the past has created and what the future holds for the Middle East and the world at large. (Booklist, starred review) "Engel . . . who is NBC's Chief Foreign Correspondent . . . offers a brisk, concise, often-hair-raising saga beginning with his early, fondly remembered years in Cairo, to the increasing bloodshed and intransigent policies, wars and terrorism of Jerusalem, Lebanon, Libya, Syria and Afghanistan . . . The book often reads like a thriller . . . (Liz Smith New York Social Diary)

Richard Engel is the award winning Chief-Foreign Correspondent for NBC and has been in the Middle East war zone for over twenty years. He is the author of *And Then All Hell Broke Loose*, *War Journal*, and *A Fist in the Hornet's Nest*.

I doubt I am the only person who is totally confused by the Middle East. Between different religious beliefs, tribal disputes and politics, it sure is an area ripe for turmoil. The little snippets of information we get on the evening news, in newspapers or online do little to help the average person understand all the dynamics involved. This book appealed to me because it is a topic I am interested in and comes from someone who has spent time in the area. Mr. Engel has written a straightforward book based on his 20 year experience of reporting in the area. He outlines the history of the Middle East in simple terms, even though there is nothing simple about the area. His explanations provided insight into the background of the many news stories we have seen over the years. I felt the majority of the book was based on fact, with the occasional personal analysis as to how the government of the USA has failed in its attempt to stabilize the area. Whether someone agrees or disagrees with his analysis, I will say they made sense and comes from someone with a credible background. My thanks to Simon & Schuster, via Netgalley, for allowing me to read this in exchange for an unbiased review.

NBC's famous chief foreign correspondent, Richard Engel, writes his third (and perhaps best) book on his best known subject, the other two being "A Fist in the Hornet's Nest" (2004) about his experience covering the Iraq War from Baghdad. Then, "War Journal: My Five Years in Iraq" (2008) continued his biographical and mesmerizing story. He also co-authored "Defeating ISIS: Who They Are, How They Fight, What They Believe", a very timely and edifying book. Engel was the first broadcast journalist recipient of the Medill Medal for Courage in Journalism for his report "War Zone Diary". Although many media outlets pulled their journalists out of Iraq shortly after the shooting started in 2003, Engel stayed, and was thus one of the few Western journalists left in the country. He was the only American television correspondent to remain in Baghdad for the entire war. This new book- "And Then All Hell Broke Loose: Two Decades in the Middle East"- picks up where his last book left off., and also covers some earlier stories. It's both a memoir about his rather dangerous assignments and a primer on the political and religious strife in the Arab world, something many of us don't know as much about as we should. When a truck bomb explodes outside his hotel room during the insurgency, the author is left to wonder how long he can continue to cheat death and whether he was paranoid- or if they were out to get him. But even though he left Iraq, the just gets him out of the frying pan and into the fire. His transfer to Beirut comes just in time to cover the short "war" between Israel and Hezbollah; he then returns to Egypt for the Arab Spring uprising that brought down President Mubarak. Next he crosses the border when the overthrow of Libya's leader takes center stage. But the author's biggest brush with danger would come at the end of 2012 when he and his crew are held captive for five days in Syria during the civil war- that continues to this day. Quick-paced and thrilling, but full of historical context.

Thank you Richard for this great perspective and courage in tracking important news. We worry about your longevity. I wonder no one registered concern about our helping the rebels against Qadhafi. The Coalition of the Willing and then NATO were so concerned about Benghazi, the cradle of al-Qa'ida and Libyan Islamic Fighting Group leadership. According to the Sinjar documents, Libyans contributed generously to the mujahidin killing U.S. Troops in Iraq. Now, ironically, the former head of the LIFG is now the head of IS in Libya. So while the intervention was a net gain for NATO to bolster it against calls for an EU fighting force, it was a net loss for us in assisting our sworn enemies to gain power and resources. We need reporters like you not only to report, but to create analysis to help everyone see more than one move ahead on the chessboard, since politicians seem unable to do this.

Richard Engel is a national treasure. I have always watched his reports from the Middle East knowing that he was the source you wanted to hear from. This book so effectively condenses the past twenty years in the Middle East from his perspective which is first hand and not linked to any biased source. I was riveted the entire time and it was so easy to read. I feel like this book should be read by anyone who wants to understand why groups like ISIS exist as well as to understand why people criticize both GWBush and Obama's foreign policy. What an amazing life.

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