



Saddam Hussein: The Politics of Revenge

By Said K. Aburish

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Said K. Aburish presents an authoritative and timely book that explains the man the Western world fears the most. Drawing on the author's knowledge of and contacts with the Arab world, especially in Iraq, Said Aburish gives us an accurate, compelling biography and psychological profile of the man the western world fears most. The author worked with Saddam Hussein in the 1970s and is therefore able to add dimension and personal experience to our understanding of this remarkable dictator. The book includes an account of Saddam's series of personal quests: for recognition after being orphaned and brought up by a destitute uncle; for control of his country; for leadership in the Arab world; for mastery in the technology of destruction.

This is the frightening story of how the man who, with the encouragement of Western governments, made his country the most advanced in the Arab world in the 1970s, and through personal ambition led it to disaster at the end of the 1980s, and now fights for its survival. Aburish's personal experience and exclusive inside sources make this an important, unique and necessary look at one of the most terrifying leaders in the world today.

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Saddam Hussein: The Politics of Revenge By Said K. Aburish Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1764989 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Bloomsbury USA
- Published on: 2000-01-15
- Released on: 2000-01-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 241.81" h x 1.46" w x 6.48" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 384 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

There's a lot to be gleaned from this detailed, balanced biography of Saddam Hussein and there's a lot that's controversial as well. A journalist who has worked as a consultant to the Iraqi government, Aburish (*Children of Bethany; Arafat: From Defender to Dictator*) walks a tightrope, condemning the Iraqi dictator while simultaneously criticizing the West first Britain and then the United States for what he sees as its hypocritical policy in the Persian Gulf. He traces Saddam's life from a fatherless, impoverished childhood in the town of Tikrit through his rise up the ranks of the Iraqi army after Iraq gained its independence in 1958 and his eventual stranglehold on power. Aburish attributes Saddam's rise to his ability to appeal to ordinary Iraqis' desire to regain what they see as their great Mesopotamian past, although since the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, Aburish believes Saddam has lost the legitimate support of his people. But the real grist of this biography which relies on Aburish's extensive contacts in the Arab world comes as the author addresses Iraq's role in international affairs during the past decades. He builds a credible case that Iraq relied on American technology to build its weapons program even before the Iran-Iraq war and that the American government knew about it. America's flip-flops during that war and its conflicting signals to Iraq in the months preceding Saddam's invasion of Kuwait are well known. Those interested in foreign policy will learn a great deal from Aburish's knowledge of clandestine contacts and his appropriately dramatic but not sensational narrative even if some are put off by his closing plea for an end to U.N. sanctions. 16 b&w photos.

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Review

'A brilliant Arab-Western examination - by one uniquely placed - of the psychology and makeup of one of the world's political phenomena, in clear historical context, written with pace, detail, and a host of witnesses and sources' SUNDAY TRIBUNE 'Powerful. Aburish provides shameful details of Western complicity, cynical and mostly clandestine, in Saddam's reign of terror' HERALD 'The hypocrisy and amorality of Western policy make uncomfortable reading Aburish's unmatched contacts in the Middle East enable him to provide a rare glimpse into the secret world of Saddam. A chilling biography' OBSERVER

From the Publisher

In *Saddam Hussein: The Politics of Revenge*, the author draws on his own knowledge of and extensive contacts within the Arab world to produce a penetrating psychological profile of the most notorious and unpredictable man in the world today. He explains that Saddam's life has been marked by a series of personal quests: for recognition after being orphaned and raised by a destitute uncle; for control of his country; for leadership of the Arab world; and for mastery of the technology of destruction. A man who, with the encouragement of Western governments, made his country the most advanced in the Middle East in the 1970s, and through personal ambition led it to disaster at the end of the 1980s, now fights for its survival. Saïd K. Aburish has been a consultant to two Arab governments; among his books are *Children of Bethany* and *Arafat: From Defender to Dictator*.

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