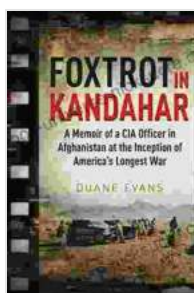


# A Secret War: Memoirs of a CIA Officer in Afghanistan at the Inception of America's Longest War

In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, the United States launched a military campaign in Afghanistan that would become its longest war. In the early days of the conflict, a small team of CIA officers was sent into the country to gather intelligence and work with Afghan allies to overthrow the Taliban regime. One of those officers was John Prados.



## Foxtrot in Kandahar: A Memoir of a CIA Officer in Afghanistan at the Inception of America's Longest War

by Duane Evans

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
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In his memoir, *A Secret War: Memoirs of a CIA Officer in Afghanistan at the Inception of America's Longest War*, Prados recounts his experiences in Afghanistan during those early years. He describes the challenges of fighting in a new and unfamiliar land, the difficulties of working with Afghan allies, and the moral dilemmas that he and his fellow officers faced.

Prados's memoir is a valuable contribution to the historical record of the war in Afghanistan. It provides a firsthand account of the early days of the conflict, when the United States was still struggling to understand the challenges it faced. It also offers a glimpse into the lives of the CIA officers who risked their lives to fight a secret war on the front lines of the global war on terror.

## **Early Days in Afghanistan**



In the fall of 2001, Prados was a young CIA officer with only a few years of experience in the field. He had never been to Afghanistan before, but he was eager to serve his country in the fight against terrorism. When he arrived in Afghanistan, Prados was assigned to a team of CIA officers who were tasked with gathering intelligence and working with Afghan allies to overthrow the Taliban regime.

The early days of the war were chaotic and dangerous. The CIA team had to operate in a country that they did not know well, and they were constantly at risk of being attacked by the Taliban. Prados and his fellow officers had to learn quickly how to survive and operate in a hostile environment.

One of the biggest challenges that the CIA team faced was the lack of reliable intelligence. The Taliban was a secretive organization, and it was difficult to get accurate information about their movements and plans. Prados and his fellow officers had to rely on a variety of sources, including Afghan informants, defectors, and satellite imagery, to piece together a picture of the enemy.

Another challenge that the CIA team faced was the difficulty of working with Afghan allies. The Afghan tribes were deeply divided, and there was a long history of mistrust between the different groups. Prados and his fellow officers had to carefully navigate the complex political landscape and build relationships with allies who could be trusted.

## **The Fight Against the Taliban**



CIA officers working with Afghan fighters to overthrow the Taliban

The CIA team played a key role in the fight against the Taliban. They provided intelligence that helped the US military to target Taliban forces, and they worked with Afghan allies to conduct operations against the enemy. Prados and his fellow officers also helped to train and equip Afghan forces, who would eventually take over the fight against the Taliban.

The war against the Taliban was a long and bloody conflict. Prados and his fellow officers saw many of their Afghan allies killed or wounded. They also faced the constant threat of being attacked by the Taliban. Despite the dangers, Prados and his fellow officers remained committed to their mission. They believed that they were fighting for a just cause, and they were determined to help the Afghan people defeat the Taliban.

## The Moral Dilemmas of War



The war in Afghanistan presented Prados and his fellow officers with difficult moral dilemmas. They were fighting against an enemy that was brutal and ruthless, but they also saw the suffering that the war was causing to the Afghan people. Prados and his fellow officers had to constantly weigh the risks and benefits of their actions, and they had to decide how far they were willing to go to achieve their goals.

One of the most difficult decisions that Prados had to make was whether or not to target Taliban forces who were using civilians as human shields. Prados knew that killing civilians was wrong, but he also knew that the Taliban was using civilians to protect themselves from attack. Prados and

his fellow officers had to carefully consider the risks involved and make a decision that they believed was right.

The war in Afghanistan also raised questions about the use of torture. The Bush administration authorized the use of torture against suspected terrorists, and Prados and his fellow officers were under pressure to use these methods to obtain intelligence. Prados and his fellow officers believed that torture was wrong, and they refused to use it. They believed that there were other, more effective ways to obtain intelligence.

### **The Legacy of the War**

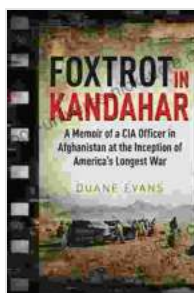


A CIA officer in Afghanistan today



The war in Afghanistan continues to this day. Prados left Afghanistan in 2003, but he has remained involved in the country. He has written extensively about the war, and he has worked to help Afghan refugees. Prados believes that the war in Afghanistan was a mistake, and he hopes that the United States will learn from its mistakes and avoid similar conflicts in the future.

The war in Afghanistan has had a profound impact on the lives of Prados and his fellow officers. They have seen the best and worst of humanity, and they have been forever changed by their experiences. Prados and his fellow officers are proud of the role that they played in the war, but they also know that the war has taken a toll on them. They hope that their experiences can help others to understand the true cost of war.



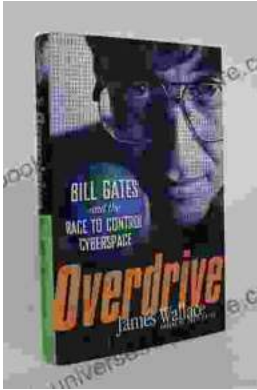
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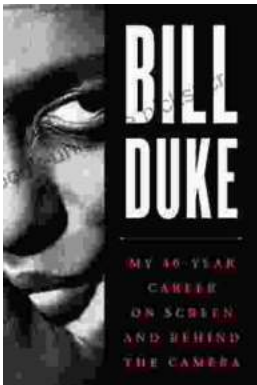
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