

No True Glory: A Frontline Account of the **Battle for Fallujah**

By Bing West



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"This is the face of war as only those who have fought it can describe it."-Senator John McCain

Fallujah: Iraq's most dangerous city unexpectedly emerged as the major battleground of the Iraqi insurgency. For twenty months, one American battalion after another tried to quell the violence, culminating in a bloody, full-scale assault. Victory came at a terrible price: 151 Americans and thousands of Iraqis were left dead.

The epic battle for Fallujah revealed the startling connections between policy and combat that are a part of the new reality of war.

The Marines had planned to slip into Fallujah "as soft as fog." But after four American contractors were brutally murdered, President Bush ordered an attack on the city-against the advice of the Marines. The assault sparked a political firestorm, and the Marines were forced to withdraw amid controversy and confusion-only to be ordered a second time to take a city that had become an inferno of hate and the lair of the archterrorist al-Zarqawi.

Based on months spent with the battalions in Fallujah and hundreds of interviews at every level-senior policymakers, negotiators, generals, and soldiers and Marines on the front lines–No True Glory is a testament to the bravery of the American soldier and a cautionary tale about the complex-and often costly-interconnected roles of policy, politics, and battle in the twenty-first century.

From the Hardcover edition.



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Editorial Review

From Booklist

The most hard-fought campaign since the invasion of Iraq by coalition forces in April 2003, the battle for Fallujah seems here to embody most every facet of the American military experience in that country-inordinate courage by the fighting men and their immediate superiors, indecision and contradiction by U.S. leaders from the top down, a disconnect between military will to succeed in Iraq and a lack of dollars and troops to support it, and a treacherous relationship between Fallujans and those Americans who would do everything to "help" them. West, who coauthored *The March Up: Taking Baghdad with the United States Marines* (2003), does touch on the larger policy decisions made by U.S. leaders concerning Iraq but really only as they affect the soldiers trying to execute those decisions in Fallujah. Instead, West's focus is on the "frontline," putting the reader at the negotiating table with U.S. military commanders and Fallujan sheiks, imams, and rebel leaders; in the barracks; and on the street, fighting hand to hand, house to house, in some of the fiercest battles of the Fallujah campaign and the Iraq war. Appearing neither pro- nor antiwar, West simply delivers a remarkably detailed, vivid firsthand account of the American military experience, 2004-05, in a highly combustible part of Iraq. *Alan Moores*

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Review

"While many other correspondents have ventured to the front lines in Iraq, few have stayed as long as West, or brought as much knowledge of military affairs to their work. The result is a book that ... features amazing accounts of heroism, brutality, perseverance, and gallows humor."—Max Boot, *The Weekly Standard*

"No True Glory is the gripping account of the valor of the Marines in the fiercest urban combat since Hue. Yet, the even-handed description of the vacillation regarding policy will likely please neither some of our senior officers nor the White House."—Former Secretary of Defense, James R. Schlesinger

"No True Glory is the best book on the U.S. military in Iraq to emerge so far."—Tom Ricks of *The Washington Post*

"The finest chronicle of the strategy behind battle and the fighting during battle that I've ever read!"—General Carl E. Mundy, former Commandant of the Marine Corps

"A remarkably detailed, vivid firsthand account of the American military experience.... West's focus is on the "frontline," putting the reader at the negotiating table with U.S. military commanders and Fallujan sheiks, imams, and rebel leaders; in the barracks; and on the street, fighting hand to hand, house to house, in some of the fiercest battles of the Fallujah campaign and the Iraq war."—*Booklist*

"West describes the fury of the fighting in Fallujah and Ramadi in a style that makes him part historian, part novelist — the grunts' Homer."—LA Times Book Review

"West successfully brings the war back home in all its agonizing and illuminating detail. From the combat stories of those on the ground all the way up to the White House, West [is] uniquely placed to write a chronicle of the fight. The narrative truly shines."—*The Christian Science Monitor*

"Exhaustively reported...West paints a picture of highly capable Marines struggling to make the best of

untenable political circumstances."—Washington Post Book World

From the Hardcover edition.

From the Inside Flap

"There is no glory in battle worth the blood it costs."

----General Dwight D. Eisenhower

For months author F. J. "Bing" West lived among the Marines who besieged the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, and interviewed members of the three US Army units that fought in that factious city before the Marines arrived. With access from frontline personnel to senior policymakers and negotiators, West's astonishing account takes us into strategy discussions between generals, on tense night patrols, and into fighting from rooftop to rooftop to tell the story that hasn't been told in the press or on the nightly news. The Marines originally planned to slip into Fallujah "as soft as fog." But in March 2004, after a mob killing and mutilating four American contractors was recorded in images that horrified the world, the Marines attacked. West recounts the ferocious street battles that followed, the stiff resistance and shocking violence that caught many in our military and government off guard, and the sweeping US counterattack that outraged the Arab world.

We go behind the scenes to the intense negotiations to persuade Iraqis to take charge and hunt down terrorists like al-Zarqawi, who were using the city as a sanctuary-negotiations whose ramifications will impact Iraq for years to come. But the real focus is upon the heroic, everyday efforts of the American fighting soldier and Marine confronting the key paradox of the war: that the Iraqis both wanted and didn't want Americans in their country.

No True Glory is a firsthand account of the gritty fighting, political maneuvering, and ongoing struggle in this crucial city-a microcosm of the confused and frustrating Iraqi war.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Louise Lewis:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for us. The book No True Glory: A Frontline Account of the Battle for Fallujah had been making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The book No True Glory: A Frontline Account of the Battle for Fallujah is not only giving you considerably more new information but also to get your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your e-book. Try to make relationship with all the book No True Glory: A Frontline Account of the Battle for Fallujah. You never experience lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

Robert Hollinger:

Reading a publication tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world could share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire their particular reader with their story or their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the publications. But also they write about the ability about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their

skill in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write for their book. One of them is this No True Glory: A Frontline Account of the Battle for Fallujah.

Jennifer Yost:

The reserve with title No True Glory: A Frontline Account of the Battle for Fallujah posesses a lot of information that you can learn it. You can get a lot of benefit after read this book. This book exist new expertise the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to learn how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you inside new era of the glowbal growth. You can read the e-book in your smart phone, so you can read that anywhere you want.

Sylvia Medina:

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