

# [PDF] A Bloody Business: America's War Zone Contractors And The Occupation Of Iraq

Gerry Schumacher, Steve Gansen - pdf download free book

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#### Books Details:

Title: A Bloody Business: America's  
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#### Description:

**From Publishers Weekly** Retired army colonel Schumacher polishes the public image of private wartime contractors in this informative if relentlessly glowing account of these "unrecognized and unappreciated patriots" in Iraq and Kuwait. Schumacher gained access to employees from

contracting firms MPRI and Crescent Security, and his perspective is one of deep affection and respect—for people who put themselves in harm's way to provide security for diplomats, to move convoys of precious materials and to rebuild the broken infrastructure of war-torn countries. Describing the day-to-day operations of the trucking, training and security contractors he interviewed in Kuwait and Iraq, Schumacher argues that they don't work for the money (MPRI workers' pay comes to under \$20 an hour) but out of a sense of adventure, patriotism and expertise. The author's voice is unpretentious but swaggering, tough but sentimental; he's as critical of the Bush administration for its ill-conceived strategies as of the media for what he considers prejudice. There's not much in the way of subtle policy debate or comprehensive analysis ("Department of Defense outsourcing to civilian contractors is an efficient, short-term solution"), but Schumacher writes with a keen sense of justice and empathy as he recounts the harrowing tales of these contractors-for-hire. Color photos. (May)

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## **Review**

### **Publishers Weekly, March 27, 2006**

"Retired army colonel Schumacher polishes the public image of private wartime contractors in this informative, if relentlessly glowing, account of these 'unrecognized and unappreciated patriots' in Iraq and Kuwait. Schumacher gained access to employees from contracting firms MPRI and Crescent Security, and his perspective is one of deep affection and respect - for people who put themselves in harm's way to provide security for diplomats, to move convoys of precious materials and to rebuild the broken infrastructure of war-torn countries. The author's voice is unpretentious but swaggering, tough but sentimental; he's as critical of the Bush administration for its ill-conceived strategies as of the media for what he considers prejudice. There's not much in the way of subtle policy debate or comprehensive analysis ('Department of Defense outsourcing to civilian contractors is an efficient, short-term solution'), but Schumacher writes with a keen sense of justice and empathy as he recounts the harrowing tales of these contractors-for-hire."

### **Military Book Club, April 2006**

□It's impossible to fully comprehend the future of warfare without a complete understanding of the role war-zone contractors will play. Iraq, the testing ground for the privatization of our military, is teeming with contractors today, whose efforts will determine the future of military privatization. *A Bloody Business* is, in our estimation, the most informative book on the subject today. Inside, you'll read story after story of insurgent ambushes and exploding IEDs in a land where life as a truck driver can be as dangerous as that of a soldier."

### **U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, August 2006**

"A *Bloody Business* provides insight to the selection and training regimes for contractors in Iraq. It then goes on to relate many personal accounts of their work and combat action in that war-torn country. Colonel Schumacher underscores the dangers of 'uncontrolled contracting.' At the same time, he closes with the common-sense view that, while U.S. soldiers will be respected for their service in Iraq, 'American civilian contractors deserve nothing less.'"

### **California Bookwatch, July 2006**

"A *Bloody Business* tells of a new kind of American army overseas: one which is a private mercenary-run establishments which takes over as the U.S. military shrinks. The lives of such men and women who work in Iraq are controlled by few laws or regulations: they must rely on instinct and their own codes of conduct. Civilian contractors in Iraq number some fifteen thousand: their experiences and daily lives, recounted here, are riveting testimonies to their duties and hardships."

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