Beyond the Green Zone: Dispatches from an Unembedded Journalist in Occupied Iraq by Dahr Jamail

“A SUPERB JOURNALIST” -- HOWARD ZINN  FOREWORD BY AMY GOODMAN

BEYOND THE GREEN ZONE
DISPATCHES FROM AN
UNEMBEDDED JOURNALIST
IN OCCUPIED IRAQ
DAHR JAMAIL

“A Jaw-Dropping Eye-Popping Indictment Of The Behaviour Of The Invading Us Forces In Iraq

“Dahr Jamail does us a great service, by taking us past the lies of our political leaders, past the cowardice of the mainstream press, into the streets, the homes, the lives of Iraqis living under US occupation. If what he has seen could be conveyed to all Americans, this ugly war in Iraq would quickly come to an end. A superb journalist.”—Howard Zinn

We walk slowly under the scorching sun along dusty rows of humble headstones. She continues reading them aloud to me, “Old man wearing jacket with dishdasha, near industrial center. He has a key in his hand.” Many of the bodies were buried before they could be identified. Tears welling up in my eyes she quietly reads, “Man wearing red track suit.” She
points to another row, “Three women killed in car leaving city by American missile.”

As the occupation of Iraq unravels, the demand for independent reporting is growing. Since 2003, unembedded journalist Dahr Jamail has filed indispensable reports from Iraq that have made him this generation’s chronicler of the unfolding disaster there. In these collected dispatches, Jamail presents never-before-published details of the siege of Fallujah and examines the origins of the Iraqi insurgency.

Dahr Jamail makes frequent visits to Iraq and has published his accounts in newspapers and magazines worldwide. He has regularly appeared on Democracy Now!, as well as the BBC, Pacifica Radio, and numerous other networks.

Personal Review: Beyond the Green Zone: Dispatches from an Unembedded Journalist in Occupied Iraq by Dahr Jamail

Over the years, I often heard and to be quite honest, also felt somewhat myself, "why aren't the Iraqis grateful to the US for being liberated from Saddam?"

This book provides the answer. The US forces (and obviously this cannot apply to every single one) but broadly as a group stand accused of the most grotesque crimes against the Iraqi people. The soldiers can claim that they are attacking insurgents and terrorists, but Dahr Jamail in his searingly honest and simply written masterpiece proves beyond any doubt that the US from the beginning of the invasion, proved to be extremely trigger happy if any situation got tense and when the Iraqis rebelled against this behaviour got punished for rebelling. Thus was set up a truly vicious cycle of fearful and nervous or often extremely angry and vindictive US soldiers 'taking it out' on women/children and the elderly of both genders, who they must have known were not terrorists, only to find the Iraqis so incensed by this that they join the ranks of the insurgents to take their revenge on the US soldiers.

The standout chapter covers the disgraceful war crimes committed by the US Marines encircling Fallujah (not once but twice) and murdering on purpose upwards of 5000 to 7000 civilians, including intentional attacks on people's homes, on hospitals, on ambulances, the killing of doctors, and civilians with white flags trying to flee, the lot in fact.

Dahr Jamail, was driven to Iraq by his despair at the rank dishonesty of the Mainstream US media, reading this book with an open mind, will give you a very clear idea of why (at least in my opinion) he is right.

Jamail also comes across as a very decent man who cares deeply about Iraq and especially the Iraqis he works with and gets to know and love, and he describes very clearly the absurdity of how one country is dragged
down into the very pitt of hell by the might of the extremely violent US military machine whereas many in the US population, spoilt, uncurious, jingoistic, self-serving and listless, switch off their TVs when they are bored by coverage of the 'depressing' story of Iraq, to turn to something more enjoyable.

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