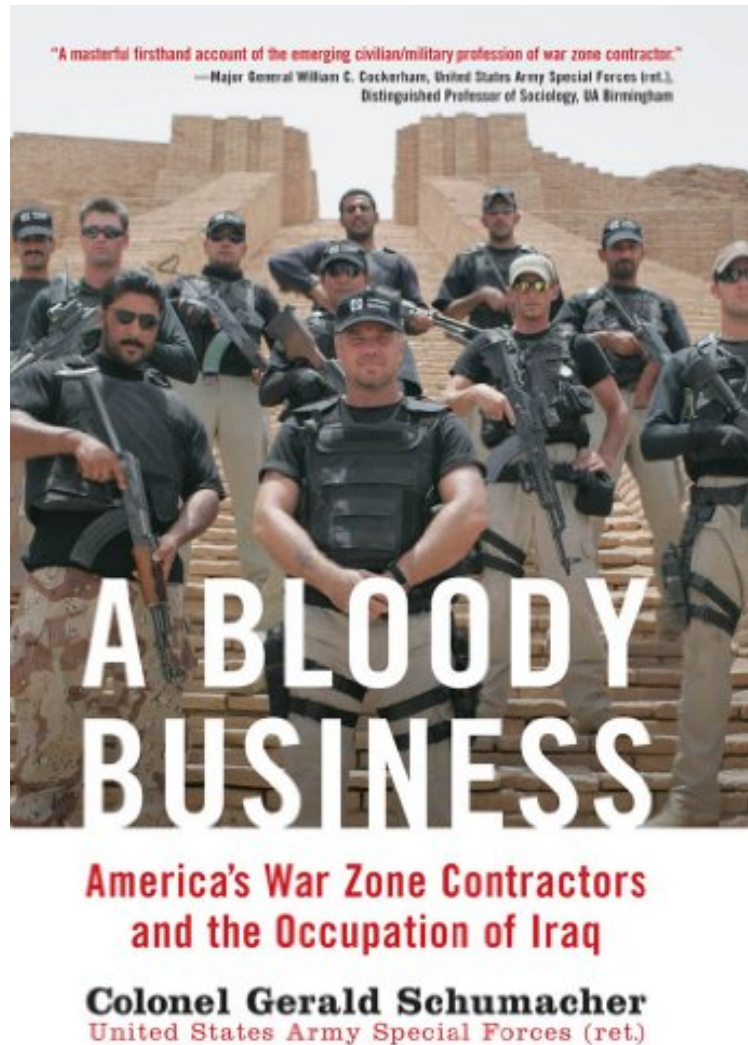


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A Bloody Business: America's War Zone Contractors and the Occupation of Iraq

Gerry Schumacher

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Gerry Schumacher : A Bloody Business: America's War Zone Contractors and the Occupation of Iraq before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Bloody Business: America's War Zone Contractors and the Occupation of Iraq:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read....By Adam Stein War zone contractors have garnered a great deal of attention since Iraq. This book provided a very interesting perspective on how vastly the war zone contractors are utilized overseas. The average American citizen has no idea how many contractors are deployed and what duties they perform. I Found this book to be quite interesting. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Real-world view of Iraq By Ben Parsons Fascinating insight into what's it like to live and work as an American contractor in Iraq. This is the real life picture you don't get in the standard news. Schumacher's style vividly gives you the look-sound-feel-smell of this life and more understanding of the cultures and how they interact. Extremely enjoyable and educational reading. You get to know the characters as they go through unbelievable daily experiences, then you look at their pictures and realize this is all real! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By JJK good book

As the U.S. Army shrinks, a private army steps into the breach. *A Bloody Business* offers an unprecedented look behind the scenes and into the ranks of this mercenary force (numbering as many as 15,000 today) who guard supply convoys, train foreign soldiers, provide security for foreign leaders and dignitaries—and whose workplaces are the most dangerous hot spots on the planet. With its insights into who these men are, what drives them, where they come from, how they prepare, and what they do, this book provides a uniquely close-up and complete picture of the private army behind America's military muscle.

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) Copyright © 2006 Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. 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."