



green books

Advance Information

4/10/2011

KILLING THE CRANES

A reporter's journey through three decades of war in Afghanistan

Edward Girardet

"Unparalleled insights into the immense challenges presented by the war in Afghanistan."
– Mark Schapiro, senior correspondent, Centre for Investigative Reporting, and author of *Exposed*

"This is the most thorough and knowledgeable book on Afghanistan I have come across, and Girardet's conclusions about what has gone wrong and what can be done about it are unassailable." – Howard Dean, former chair of the Democratic National Committee

Few reporters have covered Afghanistan as intrepidly and humanely as Edward Girardet. In this gripping personal account, Girardet delivers a story of that nation's resistance fighters, foreign invaders, mercenaries, spies, aid workers, Islamic extremists and others who have defined Afghanistan's last thirty years of war, chaos and strife.

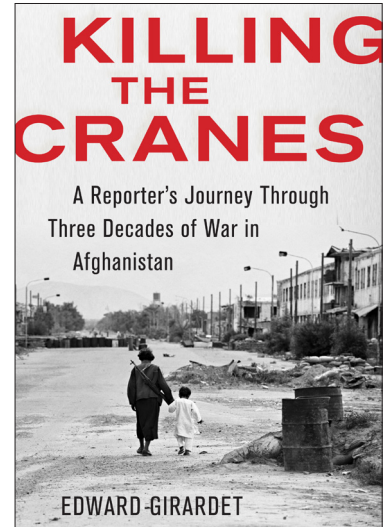
Over thirty years Girardet's encounters with key figures – including Ahmed Shah Massoud, the famed "Lion of Panjshir" assassinated by al-Qaeda two days before 9/11, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, an Islamic extremist supported by the US during the 1980s only to become one of today's most anti-Western insurgents, and Osama bin Laden – shed extraordinary light on the personalities who have shaped the nation, and its current challenges, from corruption and narcotics trafficking to selfish regional interests.

Killing the Cranes provides crucial insights into why the West's current involvement has turned into such a disaster, not only rekindling a new insurgency, but wasting billions of dollars on a recovery process that has shown scant success.

The Author: Edward Girardet is a journalist, writer, and producer who has reported widely from humanitarian and conflict zones in Africa, Asia and elsewhere since the late 70s. As a foreign correspondent based in Paris for *The Christian Science Monitor*, *US News* and *World Report*, and *The Macneill/Lehrer NewsHour*, he first began covering Afghanistan prior to the Soviet invasion in 1979. He has worked on numerous television current affairs and documentary segments on subjects ranging from the war in Angola to lost tribes in Western New Guinea, and currently lives in Switzerland.

UK Author Events

- 5th Oct, Frontline Club discussion on Afghanistan chaired by BBC R4's Paddy O'Connell.
- 7th Oct, BBC R4 interview (also to be broadcast on BBC World Service)
- 20th Oct, London/SOAS: t.b.c.
- 2012 - various universities, plus talk at Clifton College. Dates t.b.c.



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PUBLISHERS
Bee West, Green Books,
Dartington Space, Dartington Hall,
Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EN
Tel: 01803 863260
Fax: 01803 863843
sales@greenbooks.co.uk
www.greenbooks.co.uk

PUBLICITY
Stacey Hedge, Green Books,
Dartington Space, Dartington Hall,
Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EN
Tel: 01803 863260
Fax: 01803 863843
publicity@greenbooks.co.uk
www.greenbooks.co.uk

SALES REPRESENTATION
Signature Books Representation UK
20 Castlegate, York, YO1 9RP
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Central Books, 99 Wallis Road,
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Tel: 0845 458 9911
Fax: 0845 458 9912
info@centralbooks.com
www.centralbooks.com