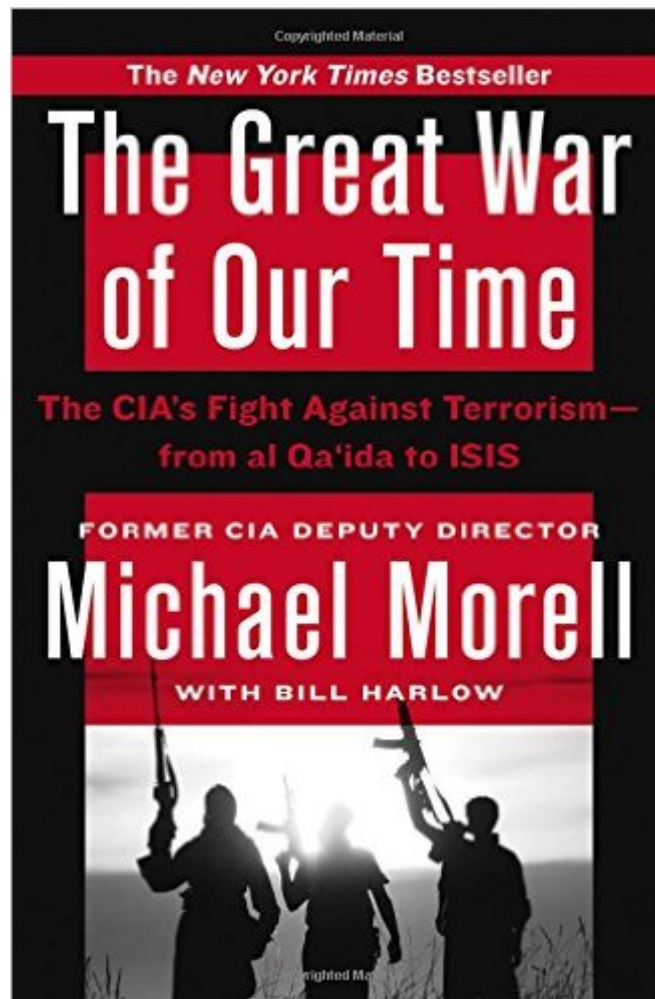


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The Great War Of Our Time: The CIA's Fight Against Terrorism--From Al Qa'ida To ISIS



Synopsis

Called the "Bob Gates of his generation" by Politico, Michael Morell was a top CIA officer who played a critical role in the most important counterterrorism events of the past two decades. Morell was by President Bush's side on 9/11/01 when terrorists struck America and in the White House Situation Room advising President Obama on 5/1/11 when America struck back-killing Usama bin Ladin. From the subway bombings in London to the terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Morell always seemed to find himself on the cusp of history. A superb intelligence analyst and briefer, Morell now presents *THE GREAT WAR OF OUR TIME*, where he uses his talents to offer an unblinking and insightful assessment of CIA's counterterrorism successes and failures of the past twenty years and, perhaps most important, shows readers that the threat of terrorism did not die with Bin Ladin in Abbottabad. Morell illuminates new, growing threats from terrorist groups that, if unaddressed, could leave the country vulnerable to attacks that would dwarf 9/11 in magnitude. He writes of secret, back-channel negotiations he conducted with foreign spymasters and regime leaders in a desperate attempt to secure a peaceful outcome to unrest launched during the "Arab Spring." Morell describes how efforts to throw off the shackles of oppression have too often resulted in broken nation states unable or unwilling to join the fight against terrorism. Along the way Morell provides intimate portraits of the leadership styles of figures ranging from Presidents Bush and Obama, CIA directors Tenet, Goss, Hayden, Petraeus, Panetta, and Brennan, and a host of others.

Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Twelve (August 16, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 145558567X

ISBN-13: 978-1455585670

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (305 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #33,088 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in [Books > Biographies &](#)

[Memoirs > True Crime > Espionage](#) #75 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics &](#)

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Customer Reviews

This was a very even handed book full of valuable insights on the war on terror. Mr Morell comes across as an even handed professional CIA officer, utterly dedicated to our country and a first hand witness to many important events, decisions and programs which have shaped the war on terror. He was President Bush's daily briefer for the first year of his term, and was in fact the briefer on Aug 6 date of the famous PDB that democrats want you to believe should have prevented 9-11 if only Bush would have taken it seriously. In point of fact the memo on that day had almost zero intelligence value in regards to what, when and where and was instead a general declaration that AQ wanted to attack us. Yeah no s*** Sherlock. Morell addresses the failure of the intell community to understand the nature of the WMD situation in the run up to the Iraq war. He has a great chapter on how the intelligence which help locate OBL was developed and how President Obama managed the process which lead to the decision to conduct the Abbottabad raid. He also has a chapter on the Senate report about the CIA detention and interrogation program. He really rips the report for inaccuracies, leaps of logic, not well thought out conclusions, and bias. He believes the staffers who wrote the report, wrote what they thought their bosses (democrat Senators) wanted to conclude rather than where the evidence should have lead them. He enumerates many errors of fact, errors of logic and errors of context rife throughout the report. He asks and attempts to answer 4 questions about the Enhanced Interrogation Tactics (EITs) used by the CIA on a limited number of prisoners. Was it legal or was it torture? Was it necessary or not? Was it effective? Was it the right thing to do or not?

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