

REVIEWS

Aziz's book is informative, empathetic, and eye-opening. This gripping story about the embargo war on Iraqi peoples and culture is critical to understanding how American foreign policy erases history and the collective memory of both Iraqis and Americans.

Laura Nader, Professor of Anthropology, UC, Berkeley

An intelligent and insightful book that offers readers a compelling look inside Iraq and the personal lives and thoughts of individual Iraqis, providing the reader with an understanding of Iraq's humanity that is never covered in our media.

Aseel Nasir Dyck, Iraqi-American Historian and Librarian

Based upon two decades of courageous and dangerous reporting out of Iraq, Dr. Barbara Nimri Aziz has carefully constructed a devastating human account of the genocidal impact that the 12 year long economic sanctions regime exerted upon the innocent people of that country at the behest of the United States and the United Kingdom with the complicity of the United Nations. Her searing personal portraits must be added to the cold statistics of about 1.5 million Iraqis silently exterminated by the U.S., the U.K. and the U.N. during this period. This first-rate anthropological case-study of "the rape of Iraq" by the U.S., the U.K. and the U.N should be read and contemplated by all compassionate human beings.

Prospectively, if anyone wants to understand the reasons for the ferocity of indigenous resistance to the military occupation of Iraq by the U.S., the U.K., and the U.N. since 2003, Dr. Aziz's compelling book is an excellent place to start.

Professor Francis A. Boyle University of Illinois College of Law

"Swimming Up the Tigris" is a double metaphor, first for the author's unflinching, compassionate quest to convey, in their own words, the individual and political horrors Iraqis have gone through since the imposition of UN sanctions; secondly for the Iraqis themselves, to whom she listens so carefully, and who seem to have the flow of today's politics running so powerfully against them.

This is a book filled with people who speak intimately with candor, admirable patience, understandable outrage and, all too often, the conviction born of sheer suffering.

Profoundly humane, it does much to help those of us outside Iraq to better understand the full range of experiences in that embattled country, on its own terms.

Dick Doughty, author of Gaza: Legacy of Occupation (Editor, Aramco World Magazine)

I've just finished reading 'Swimming Up the Tigris' and found that Ms. Aziz used all the precision of a skilled surgeon to dissect the many layers of destructive policies that were forwarded to dismantle and completely obliterate all remnants of Iraq's culture and civilization. Her research, analysis and insightful commentary came together to paint a picture of un-obscured malice and greed by those US led entities that focused their attention on the wealth of Iraq's oil fields. The premeditated use of the sanctions and embargoes to cripple a population and destroy its' will has been clearly spelled out in this important work.

Barbara Nimri Aziz also uses the personal stories of the Iraqi people themselves to highlight the journey of a proud, educated and industrialized folk who held high the Western democratic principles of freedom and equality, (even when their own government repressed those same ideas) and their decent into the realities of victim-hood that is associated with being the object of desire by the United States and its private interests. 'Swimming up the Tigris' is a must have and must read.

Mahmoud Ibrahim, Project Director, Dar ul Islam History Project, NY

Barbara Nimri Aziz has written a must-read book which puts a human face on an Iraqi people dehumanized by simplistic, misleading and inaccurate media accounts before, during and after America's illegitimate invasion and occupation of their homeland. She also puts an inconvenient truth to lies and misrepresentations often held as fact by many Americans concerning the reality of life in Iraq under Saddam Hussein, the awful impact of economic sanctions on the Iraqi people before the invasion of Iraq in 2003, and the sophistication and depth of a thousands year old culture that is in the process of being destroyed by the combined forces of greed, hubris and ignorance."

Scott Ritter, chief UN weapons inspector in Iraq 1991-1998 and author of Iraq Confidential.

Barbara Nimri Aziz' book fills a hole in the literature on the Middle East principally for two reasons. Its view is dramatically at odds with that of the mainstream Western media and it combines the perspectives of a trained anthropologist, a seasoned journalistic observer of the region, and above all, that of a caring human being.

John Meisel Sir Edward Peacock Professor of Political Science Emeritus Queen's University, Canada

Few could encapsulate as Aziz has done, the spirit, laughter, courage and tears of the people of this extraordinary, complex land, where civilization flourished before Mohammed or Christ walked the earth. Every American and British politician should read this book and sink to their knees in shame.

Felicity Arbuthnot, journalist, broadcaster, and senior researcher for John Pilger's award-winning documentary "Paying the Price: Killing the Children of Iraq".