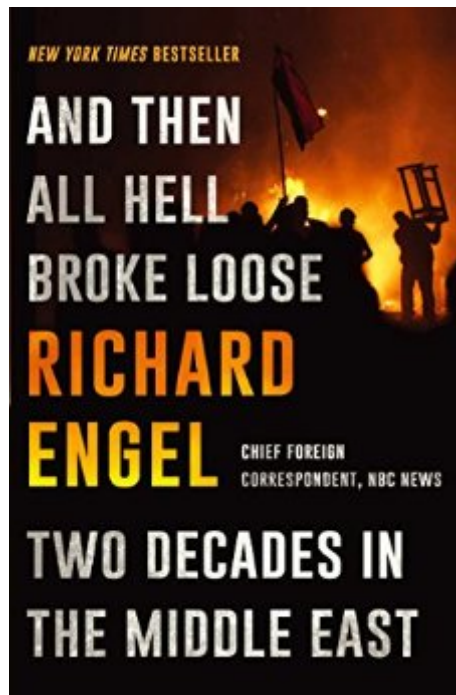


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And Then All Hell Broke Loose: Two Decades In The Middle East



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • "Gripping reading...an astute, fast-paced overview...[Engel] gives us sharp, unnerving snapshots." —Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* Based on two decades of reporting, NBC's chief foreign correspondent's riveting story of the Middle East revolutions, the Arab Spring, war, and terrorism seen up-close — sometimes dangerously so. When he was just twenty-three, a recent graduate of Stanford University, Richard Engel set off to Cairo with \$2,000 and dreams of being a reporter. Shortly thereafter he was working freelance for Arab news sources and got a call that a busload of Italian tourists were massacred at a Cairo museum. This is his first view of the carnage these years would pile on. Over two decades Engel has been under fire, blown out of hotel beds, taken hostage. He has watched Mubarak and Morsi in Egypt arrested and condemned, reported from Jerusalem, been through the Lebanese war, covered the whole shooting match in Iraq, interviewed Libyan rebels who toppled Gaddafi, reported from Syria as Al-Qaeda stepped in, was kidnapped in the Syrian crosscurrents of fighting. He goes into Afghanistan with the Taliban and to Iraq with ISIS. In the page-turning *And Then All Hell Broke Loose*, he shares his adventure tale. Engel takes chances, though not reckless ones, keeps a level head and a sense of humor, as well as a grasp of history in the making. Reporting as NBC's Chief-Foreign Correspondent, he reveals his unparalleled access to the major figures, the gritty soldiers, and the helpless victims in the Middle East during this watershed time. We can experience the unforgettable suffering and despair of the local populations. Engel's vivid description is intimate and personal. Importantly, it is a succinct and authoritative account of the ever-changing currents in that dangerous land.

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Customer Reviews

NBC's famous chief foreign correspondent, Richard Engel, writes his third (and perhaps best) book on his best known subject, the other two being "A Fist in the Hornet's Nest" (2004) about his experience covering the Iraq War from Baghdad. Then, "War Journal: My Five Years in Iraq" (2008) continued his biographical and mesmerizing story. He also co-authored "Defeating ISIS: Who They Are, How They Fight, What They Believe", a very timely and edifying book. Engel was the first broadcast journalist recipient of the Medill Medal for Courage in Journalism for his report "War Zone Diary". Although many media outlets pulled their journalists out of Iraq shortly after the shooting started in 2003, Engel stayed, and was thus one of the few Western journalists left in the country. He was the only American television correspondent to remain in Baghdad for the entire war. This new book- "And Then All Hell Broke Loose: Two Decades in the Middle East"- picks up where his last book left off., and also covers some earlier stories. It's both a memoir about his rather dangerous assignments and a primer on the political and religious strife in the Arab world, something many of us don't know as much about as we should. When a truck bomb explodes outside his hotel room during the insurgency, the author is left to wonder how long he can continue to cheat death and whether he was paranoid- or if they were out to get him. But even though he left Iraq, the just gets him out of the frying pan and into the fire. His transfer to Beirut comes just in time to cover the short "war" between Israel and Hezbollah; he then returns to Egypt for the Arab Spring uprising that brought down President Mubarak.

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