British Counterinsurgency: A History of Coercive Statecraft, 1945-2019

From Palestine and Kenya to Malaysia, Iraq, and Afghanistan, British Counterinsurgency examines the legacy of the UK as a counterinsurgency power. This groundbreaking book provides a comprehensive historical overview of British counterinsurgency theory and practice from the end of World War II to the present day. It explores the ways in which the UK has sought to maintain its global influence and protect its interests through military force, political manipulation, and economic coercion.

The author, John Newsinger, argues that British counterinsurgency has been a brutal and ineffective strategy that has led to widespread human rights abuses and political instability. He calls for a radical rethink of the UK's approach to counterinsurgency and a new focus on diplomacy and development.

British Counterinsurgency by John Newsinger

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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Screen Reader	: Supported
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British Counterinsurgency in Palestine

The British Mandate of Palestine was a period of intense conflict between the British authorities and the local Arab population. The British used a variety of counterinsurgency tactics to suppress the Arab revolt, including collective punishment, internment, and torture. These tactics were largely ineffective and only served to further alienate the Arab population.

British Counterinsurgency in Kenya

The Mau Mau uprising in Kenya was a major challenge to British rule. The British responded with a brutal counterinsurgency campaign that involved the use of concentration camps, torture, and summary executions. The Mau Mau uprising was eventually defeated, but the legacy of British counterinsurgency in Kenya remains a source of pain and anger.

British soldiers interrogating a Mau Mau suspect.

British Counterinsurgency in Malaysia

The Malayan Emergency was a period of armed conflict between the British authorities and the Malayan Communist Party. The British used a variety of counterinsurgency tactics to defeat the communists, including the creation of a network of fortified villages and the use of air power. The Malayan Emergency was a success for the British, but it came at a high cost in terms of human rights abuses.

British Counterinsurgency in Iraq

The British invasion of Iraq in 2003 was a major turning point in the history of British counterinsurgency. The British played a key role in the occupation of Iraq and in the counterinsurgency campaign against the Iraqi resistance. The British withdrawal from Iraq in 2009 was a major setback for British counterinsurgency policy.

British soldiers conducting a raid in Iraq.

British Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan

The British invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 was another major turning point in the history of British counterinsurgency. The British played a key role in the occupation of Afghanistan and in the counterinsurgency campaign against the Taliban. The British withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2014 was another major setback for British counterinsurgency policy.
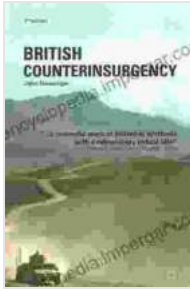
The Legacy of British Counterinsurgency

British counterinsurgency has a long and bloody history. It has been a brutal and ineffective strategy that has led to widespread human rights abuses and political instability. The UK's approach to counterinsurgency needs to be radically rethought. There needs to be a new focus on diplomacy and development, and a willingness to learn from the mistakes of the past.
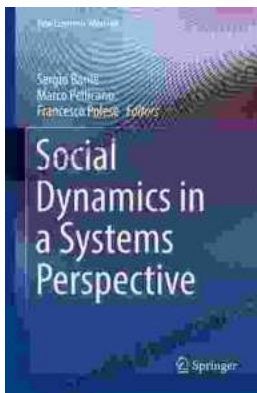
John Newsinger's British Counterinsurgency is a groundbreaking book that provides a comprehensive historical overview of British counterinsurgency theory and practice. It is essential reading for anyone interested in the history of British counterinsurgency, the legacy of the British Empire, or the challenges of contemporary counterinsurgency.

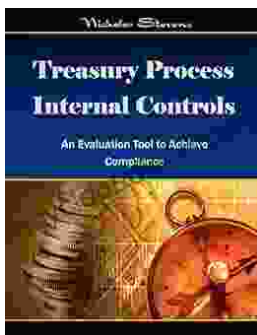**British Counterinsurgency** by John Newsinger

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