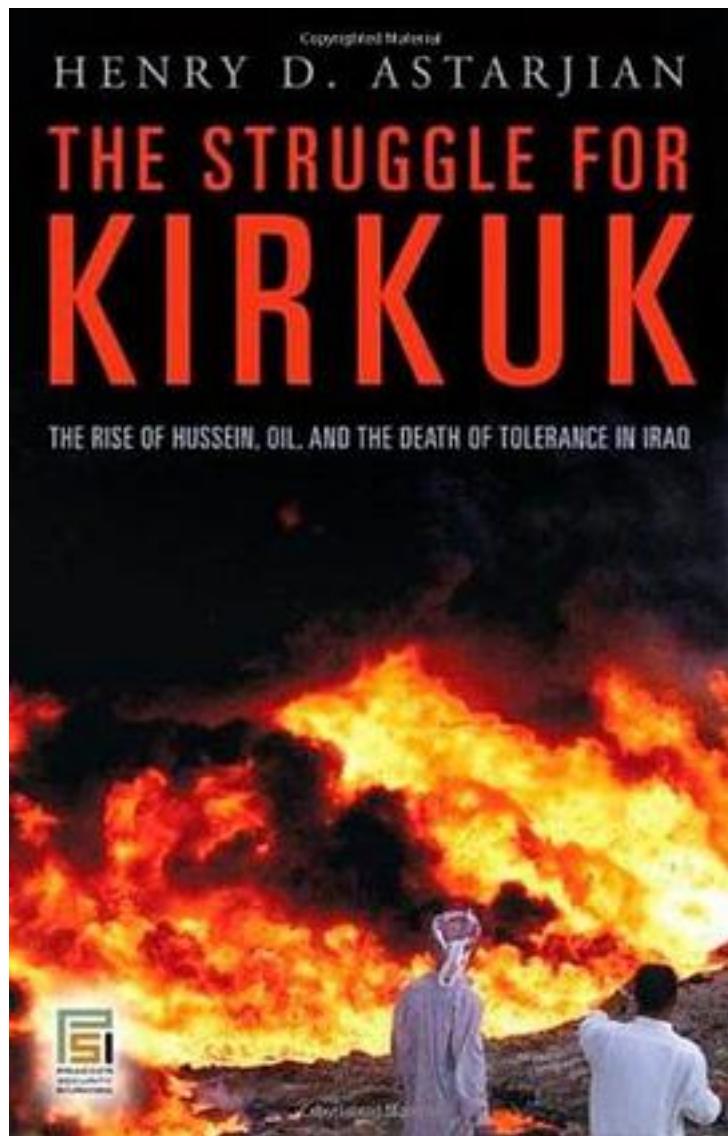


The Struggle for Kirkuk



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This book explores, through real life stories, the social and political dynamics at play in Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan before the rise of Saddam Hussein. Kirkuk is a hotly contested oil city - a time bomb with the potential to shatter the fragile hope for unity in Iraq. In this book - half memoir, half history - an Iraqi-American physician reveals the turmoil of life during the Iraqi revolution, and his experiences as a political prisoner. Told from an eyewitness perspective, this book gives the history of Iraq through the life of one of its most volatile towns, through the eyes of a citizen who witnessed death, kidnapping, corruption, political indoctrination, and open murder in the streets. Originally a Jewish enclave, Kirkuk was home to Jews, Kurds, Armenians, Assyrians, Turks, and Communists - diverse peoples who lived together in peace but with deep-seated animosities. They were all involved in surreptitious battles for control of Baba Gurgur, the oil fields of Kirkuk. The author was both a witness to and a victim of most events of this period. The book also explores the influence that the British, through the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC), brought about in shaping Iraqi society, and the Soviet attempts to gain access to Baba Gurgur through its surrogates, the communists. It also tells the story of the author's incarceration and torture in a death row cell, at the hands of his childhood friend, an avowed communist. His incarceration with the Ba'ath leaders gave him a special insight into their psyche. Finally, the book examines the psychological effects the Iraqi defeat in Palestine (1948) had on the Armed forces, leading to the formation of the Iraqi "Free Officers" movement which, a decade later, overthrew the monarchy.

作者介绍:

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