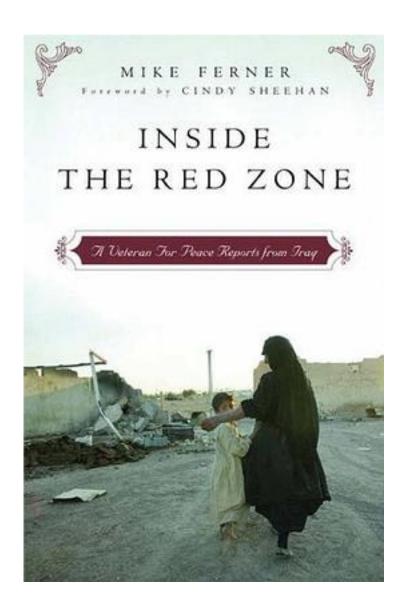
Inside the Red Zone



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Mike Ferner, a peace activist and journalist from Ohio, travelled to Baghdad twice, once just before the U.S. invasion in March 2003 and once again a year later. In this book, he profiles the peace activists, soldiers, journalists, and ordinary Iraqis he met during his two extended visits to what became known as the Red Zone, the area outside the protected Green Zone enclave. He provides a rare inside look into the daily life of Iraqis before and after the war as well as a collective profile of segments of the contemporary American peace movement that has thus far been hidden from public view. These stories have been gathered on the streets of Baghdad and farming villages in the Sunni Triangle, not from the lobby of a five-star hotel, nor from behind the tinted windows of an armoured SUV. We meet western peace activists, and are also given an unvarnished view of everyday people in Iraq - cab drivers, an unemployed engineer, a newspaper editor, farmers in a rural village - all living their lives as normally as possible in the cauldron their country has become. The book goes beyond the usual portrayal of Iraqis in the western media - as casualties, victims, grieving parents, and shell-shocked children - to show them as "people just like us."

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