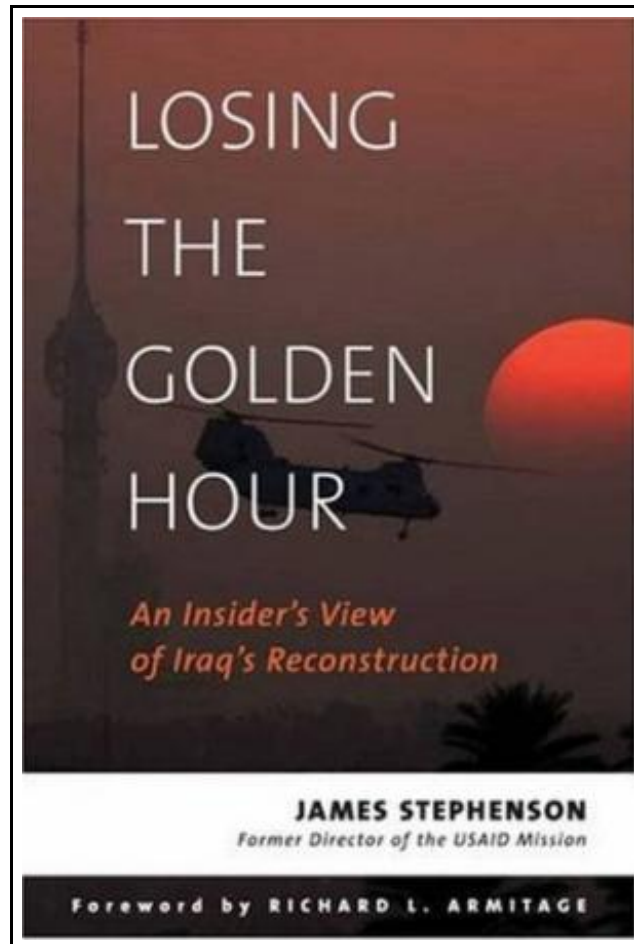


Losing the Golden Hour: An Insider's View of Iraq's Reconstruction



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LOSING THE GOLDEN HOUR: AN INSIDER'S VIEW OF IRAQ'S RECONSTRUCTION

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Potomac Books Inc. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Losing the Golden Hour: An Insider's View of Iraq's Reconstruction, James Stephenson, Richard Armitage, In emergency medicine, "the golden hour" is the first hour after injury during which treatment greatly increases survivability. In post-conflict transition terminology, it is the first year after hostilities end. Without steadily improving conditions then, popular support declines and chances for economic, political, and social transformation begin to evaporate. James Stephenson believes we have lost Iraq's golden hour. A veteran of post-conflict reconstruction on three continents, he ran the Iraq mission of the Agency for International Development in 2004-05 with more than a thousand employees and expatriate contractors. The Coalition Provisional Authority, which oversaw the largest reconstruction and nation-building exercise ever, was a dysfunctional organization the Department of Defense cobbled together with temporary employees and a few experienced professionals from the State Department and other agencies. Iraqis soon became disillusioned, and the insurgency grew. "Losing the Golden Hour" tells of hubris, incompetence, courage, fear, and duty. It is about foreign assistance professionals trying to overcome the mistakes of an ill-conceived occupation and help Iraqis create a nation after decades of despair. Neither criticizing nor defending U.S. foreign policy, Stephenson offers an informed assessment of Iraq's future. This book chronicles the thirteen months I spent in Iraq as mission director for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). But the prologue lies in my childhood and years of experience that led me to Baghdad. When I was ten, my father joined what would become USAID and moved the family to a remote dam site in central India. We lived in India for six of my most formative years. I attended college in the United States, followed by four years as a U.S. Army officer. In Vietnam, I learned how to...

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