

Beating Goliath: Why Insurgencies Win

By Jeffrey Record

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Beating Goliath examines the phenomenon of victories by the weak over the strong—more specifically, insurgencies that succeeded against great powers. Jeffrey Record reviews eleven insurgent wars from 1775 to the present and determines why the seemingly weaker side won. He concludes that external assistance correlates more consistently with insurgent success than any other explanation. He does not disparage the critical importance of will, strategy, and strong-side regime type or suggest that external assistance guarantees success. Indeed, in all cases, some combination of these factors is usually present. But Record finds few if any cases of unassisted insurgent victories except against the most decrepit regimes.

Having identified the ingredients of insurgent success, Record examines the present insurgency in Iraq and whether the United States can win. In so doing, Record employs a comparative analysis of the Vietnam War and the Iraq War. He also identifies and assesses the influence of distinctive features of the American way of war on the U.S. forces' performance against the Iraqi insurgency.

Make no mistake: insurgent victories are the exception, not the rule. But when David does beat Goliath, the consequences can be earth shattering and change the course of history. Jeffrey Record's persuasive logic and clear writing make this timely book a must read for scholars, policymakers, military strategists, and anyone interested in the Iraq War's outcome.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Record's *Beating Goliath* is a book everyone should read. Its insights into US public opinion and strategic culture, its analysis of the current US war in Iraq and its conclusions—coiently summing up the policy-relevant literature on asymmetrical conflict outcomes and counter-insurgency strategy—are among the best and most accessible of any of these subjects in print."—*Survival*
(*Survival* 2007-11-08)

"This impressive book deserves a wide audience. Undergraduates and general readers will find this book to be an excellent introduction to the topic. The high level of analysis also makes this book essential reading for war-fighting practitioners and counterinsurgency specialists."—*Proceedings*
(*Proceedings* 2007-11-12)

"This book is highly recommended to any national-level elected political officials, military personnel of all ranks, civil servants dealing with foreign policy or the Department of Defense and to any citizen who wants to know more than the popular media can give you. This is an excellent work."—*Special Warfare*
(*Special Warfare* 2007-12-07)

"Record's well-chosen case studies highlight the common characteristics of successful insurgencies. . . . His analysis is persuasive and makes for a sobering read."—*Military Review*
(*Military Review* 2007-12-20)

"Record has given us a thoughtful, well-researched, historically based, look at a problem all too timely...*Beating Goliath: Why Insurgencies Win* stands as one of the best of the recent books on the evolving nature of insurgencies and the challenges they present."—*Journal of Military History*
(*Journal of Military History* 2008-03-06)

"This is a book well worth reading . . . highly recommended."—*Choice*
(*Choice* 2008-03-06)

From the Publisher

"The United States would be better off if more people read Jeffrey Record's insightful analysis--especially people in power. His analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the American way of war is by itself worth the price of the book." -- **Thomas E. Ricks, author of *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq***

"*Beating Goliath* is short, clear, interesting, and practical--that is, everything a book designed to change minds should be. It is also full of arguments and conclusions that will surprise many readers and would greatly improve America's decisions about when and how to commit military force. This is a valuable book for military professionals and the intelligent non-expert public alike." -- **James Fallows, author of *Blind Into Baghdad* and *National Defense***

"*Beating Goliath* is a small book that packs a big wallop. Jeffrey Record's explanation as to why insurgencies pose such a daunting challenge for powerful nations--especially for the United States--is succinct, incisive, and compelling." -- **Andrew J. Bacevich, professor of history and international relations, Boston**

University, and author of the *New American Militarism: How Americans Are Seduced by War*

"Through solid research and astute analysis, Dr. Record demonstrates that the United States is 'not particularly good' at precisely the type of armed conflict it expects to encounter in coming decades--counterinsurgency. This idea has immense repercussions for future American strategy. All policymakers, scholars, and citizens concerned with U.S. security should grapple with the implications of *Beating Goliath*."

-- Steven Metz, Reserach Professor of National Security Affairs, U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute

About the Author

Jeffrey Record is a professor of strategy at the Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama. He is the author of *Bounding the Global War on Terrorism* (2004), *Dark Victory: America's Second War against Iraq*(2004), and *Beating Goliath: Why Insurgencies Win* (Potomac Books, Inc., 2007). He served in Vietnam as a pacification adviser and received his doctorate from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He lives in Atlanta.

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Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book specially book entitled *Beating Goliath: Why Insurgencies Win* the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a guide then become one contact form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get ahead of. The *Beating Goliath: Why Insurgencies Win* giving you an additional experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful facts for your better life with this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

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