

# COUNTERINSURGENCY

## Reading List:

*For Marines deploying to  
Iraq and Afghanistan*



*Read to Think  
Think to Fight  
Fight to Win*

### Primary Reading for Majors and Lieutenant Colonels Deploying to Iraq or Afghanistan

(Books in **bold** are priority when time is an issue)

#### Iraq History

1. **Phebe Marr, *The Modern History of Iraq***
2. Charles Tripp, *A History of Iraq*

#### Afghanistan History

1. **Sir Martin Ewans, *Afghanistan: A New History***
2. Peter R. Blood, ed., *Afghanistan: A Country Study*

#### Terrorism

1. **Malise Ruthven, *A Fury for God: the Islamist Attack on America***
2. Kenneth Katzman, *Al Qaeda: Profile and Threat Assessment* URL: <http://fpc.state.gov/c4763.htm> [Succinct overview of Al-Qaeda by the Congressional Research Service—arguably the best unclassified intelligence analysis available.]

#### Counterinsurgency

1. **David Galula, *Counterinsurgency Warfare: Theory and Practice* (New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1964)**
2. *Small Wars Manual* (read in context) 1940 edition

#### Stability Operations

1. **W. Andrew Terrill, *Reconstructing Iraq: Insights, Challenges, and Missions for Military Forces in a Post-Conflict Scenario* (Carlisle Barracks, PA: SSI, February 2003). URL: <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?PubID=182>**
2. *Small Wars Manual* (read in context) 1940 edition
3. Thomas Marks, *Maoist Insurgency Since Vietnam*

#### Interagency Operations

1. **Matthew F. Bogdanos, "Joint Interagency Cooperation: The First Step", *Joint Forces Quarterly*, no. 37 (Spring 2005) p. 10-18**
2. David Fromkin, *A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East*

#### Culture

1. **Huston Smith, *Islam: A Concise Introduction***
2. Bernard Lewis, *The Crisis of Islam: Holy War & Unholy Terror*

### Primary Reading Company Grade Officers, SNCO's, and Junior Enlisted Marines Deploying to Iraq or Afghanistan

(Books in **bold** are priority when time is an issue)

#### Iraq History

***Iraq: An Introduction to the Country and the People*, Marine Corps Institute, 2004**  
(SNCO/ Junior Enlisted)

***Iraq: A Country Study*, Helen Metz**  
(Company Grade)

#### Afghanistan History

***Afghanistan: A Country Study*, Peter Blood**  
(ALL)

#### Counterinsurgency

***Tactics of the Crescent Moon: Militant Muslim Combat Methods*, John Poole**  
(ALL)

*Minimanual of the Urban Guerrilla*, Carlos Marighella  
(ALL)

*Street Without Joy*, Bernard Fall  
(Company Grade)

*Guerrilla Warfare*, Che' Guevara  
(Company Grade)

FM 31-15, *Operations Against Irregular Forces*  
(ALL)

*Small Wars Manual* (read in context) 1940 edition  
(ALL)

#### Culture

***Understanding Arabs: A Guide for Modern Times*, Margaret Nydell**  
(ALL)

The complete *Counterinsurgency Reading List*, to include supplementary reading titles, as well as the official Marine Corps Reading Program list can be found at:

<http://www.mcu.usmc.mil/reading/>

