

Contents

Foreword

xi

PART ONE **A FALSE TASTE OF VICTORY, 2001–2002**

CHAPTER ONE	A Muddled Mission	3
CHAPTER TWO	“Who Are the Bad Guys?”	17
CHAPTER THREE	The Nation-Building Project	29

PART TWO **THE GREAT DISTRACTION, 2003–2005**

CHAPTER FOUR	Afghanistan Becomes an Afterthought	43
CHAPTER FIVE	Raising an Army from the Ashes	55
CHAPTER SIX	Islam for Dummies	67
CHAPTER SEVEN	Playing Both Sides	77

PART THREE **THE TALIBAN COMES BACK, 2006–2008**

CHAPTER EIGHT	Lies and Spin	91
CHAPTER NINE	An Incoherent Strategy	103

CHAPTER TEN	The Warlords	115
CHAPTER ELEVEN	A War on Opium	129

PART FOUR OBAMA'S OVERREACH, 2009–2010

CHAPTER TWELVE	Doubling Down	145
CHAPTER THIRTEEN	"A Dark Pit of Endless Money"	157
CHAPTER FOURTEEN	From Friend to Foe	169
CHAPTER FIFTEEN	Consumed by Corruption	183

PART FIVE THINGS FALL APART, 2011–2016

CHAPTER SIXTEEN	At War with the Truth	199
CHAPTER SEVENTEEN	The Enemy Within	213
CHAPTER EIGHTEEN	The Grand Illusion	227

PART SIX STALEMATE, 2017–2021

CHAPTER NINETEEN	Trump's Turn	241
CHAPTER TWENTY	The Narco-State	253
CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE	Talking with the Taliban	263
	<i>Acknowledgments</i>	277
	<i>Note on Sources</i>	283
	<i>Endnotes</i>	287
	<i>Bibliography</i>	325
	<i>Photo Credits</i>	327
	<i>Index</i>	329