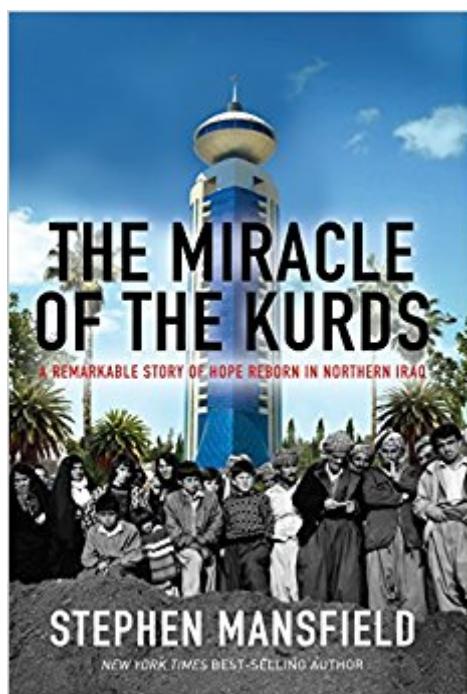


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# The Miracle Of The Kurds: A Remarkable Story Of Hope Reborn In Northern Iraq



## **Synopsis**

Kurdistan is what America wanted Iraq to be. It's America's reward. Hundreds of thousands of Kurds were murdered under the tyrannical regime of Saddam Hussein. Some four thousand Kurdish villages were destroyed. Betrayed again and again by the nations of the world, the Kurds were as decimated as any people in history. Then came the Kurdish Miracle, that combination of ancient wisdom and modern economic genius that is now making the Kurdish homeland one of the most prosperous places on earth. Many experts predict that this homeland will soon be the world's newest nation. Stephen Mansfield witnessed much of this history. In these pages he has turned the skills that have made him a New York Times best-selling author upon the Kurdish story. He has captured the agony and the determination, the horror and the genius of one of the most remarkable stories of our time.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

In the late 1980s Saddam Hussein waged a traditional and chemical weapons war on his own people in the Kurdistan region. Entire cities were wiped out and Kurdistan was devastated. Today, Kurdistan " the Dubai of Iraq " shines as a beacon of possibility for the rest of Iraq and a miracle to the world. So transformed is the region that the New York Times, National Geographic Traveler, and Conde Nast all tout it as among the most enjoyable and important places for tourists to visit in the second decade of the new millennium. Mansfield unveils the littleknownstory of America's role " including America's churches " in the recovery and restoration of Kurdistan.

Stephen Mansfield is a writer and speaker best known for his groundbreaking books on the role of religion in history, leadership, and modern culture. He first came to international attention with *The Faith of George W. Bush*, the New York Times bestseller that influenced Oliver Stone's film, *W*. His book *The Faith of Barack Obama* was another international bestseller. He has written celebrated biographies of Booker T. Washington, George Whitefield, Winston Churchill, and Abraham Lincoln, among others. Stephen speaks around the world on topics of faith, leadership, and culture. He is also the founder of two firms: The Mansfield Group and Chartwell Literary Group. He lives in Nashville and in Washington, DC, with his wife, Beverly, who is an award-winning songwriter and producer.

After hearing about the bravery of the Kurds fighting ISIS, I wanted to learn more about them. When I saw this book recommended on , I decided to give it a try. I have to say that I'm extremely glad I did. The book itself is a mixture between the author's experiences with the Kurds and their remarkable, often tragic, history. It starts off with the author returning to the Kurdish region of Iraq and comparing it with the first time he visited. The improvements are remarkable as is the poignant reminder that this was a land that didn't even have jam available to them. The personal story components are interesting as the author speaks to the Kurdish about their history after they escaped from Saddam Hussein's regime. These sad tales are set alongside a brief history of the Kurds and Kurdistan as the people continue to try to live and grow in a turbulent region. If you're looking for a book where the author's love for his subject matter is clear, then this is it. It was a remarkably easy read as well, as the author's writing style is easy to understand. I read through the whole book once, then read it all over again just because I enjoyed it so much. I can't think of many other books that I have done that with. Also, I felt like I learned a lot about a group of people who have been handed the short end of the stick too many times and deserve to be treated better. In short, I would highly recommend this book if you are at all interested in learning about the Kurdish and what they've been through. The brave people fighting ISIS deserve more recognition than they're currently getting.

The Kurds, perhaps best known for the magnificent Kurdish warrior, Saladin, are one of the largest populations in the world that does not have a homeland. It is not for lack of trying. Mansfield provides a concise review of their struggles to achieve a secure homeland where they can work, rebuild their homes, educate their children, and maintain their identity. At the end of WWI, when the

defeated Ottoman Empire was carved up by the victors, U.S. President Wilson held out the promise of self-determination for the Kurds, and they trusted him. It was an empty promise. But he was not the only U.S. President to create hope and then abandon the Kurds. Despite all, throughout the years, the Kurds have remained firm in their belief that some day they will have a safe haven. It seems as though the promise of a safe haven for a valiant people, who barely managed to escape the genocide of Saddam Hussein, may be achieved, in Kurdistan.

This book is really magnificent, Mansfield has inspired himself with the Kurdish soul, He knows Kurdistan and the history of Kurds almost more than Kurds themselves, He traveled to kurdistan and lived with the people, as he feels the desire of living from people's story, I had a great time reading the book, I read whole the book in 2 days and i want to read it one more time, Im from kurdistan-erbil, i live in U.S as im student here, I recommended my friends at school to read the book if they want to know everything about Kurdistan, Because i can't tell the story like Mansfield, Although i wanted to see his way of criticising Kurdistan, the people and government, as its important for time indeed. Thank You Great Mansfield

This book was recommended to me by a Kurd. The story of the Kurds is in the end a testament to their resilient spirit. I highly recommend this book for those wishing to know more about the Kurdish people.

Exceptionally well written and a fast read. I downloaded it on my iPad for a recent flight from Atlanta to San Antonio. Read the first half of the book on the way there and finished it on the way back. Stephen Mansfield simplified a complex history of the Kurds yet kept it accurate. His personal experiences added an enriching layer to the layers of history, politics, internal struggles, and atrocities inflicted upon the Kurds. I knew I liked and respected the Kurds. After reading this account, I love the Kurds and will continue pressing the US Government to support a free and independent Kurdistan. Now is the time. Yes, they have jam! (You will have to read the book to appreciate the jam.)

I am a Kurd myself from the Turkish part who grew up in Sweden and who now lives in Florida, USA the past 10 years. It was very nice & interesting to read about Kurds and the whole Kurdish issue from an American perspective! The book is well written and easy to read. I definitely recommend this book. It made me both laugh and cry. Thank you Stephen Mansfield!

As I was reading "The Miracle of the Kurds" I thought that I am telling my own stories, as a Kurd, to others. With the sad and dramatic stories in the Kurdish history, the writer has greatly understood the joyful and amazing part of their culture as well. For sure this book is the unheard voices of the Kurds in the Middle East. If you want to broaden your knowledge about that stateless nation, the Kurds, I highly recommend this book. Within a day or two of your time reading "The Miracle of the Kurds" you will save yourself a lifetime travel.

I really wish I could give this book five stars. Stephen Mansfield, the author, seems an excellent humanitarian, having generously given his time to their cause, advocating for the Kurds everywhere from Congress to the Vatican. For this I admire him very much. But his short book, while readable and moving at times, is little more than a gushing fan letter to the Kurds. It focuses excessively on their personalities at the cost of serious history and discussion of the "Kurdish miracle." His economic analysis is no more than praise for a law that gave equal treatment to foreign and domestic investors. He barely discusses the Kurdish security forces, which have kept the region so safe. There's little mention of the politics that helped make this happen, or the effects of the Iraq War. He doesn't explore oil or religion much either. This book may be for you if you have never heard of the Kurds and are interested solely in their social characteristics. If you want a more serious account of the Kurds, look elsewhere.

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