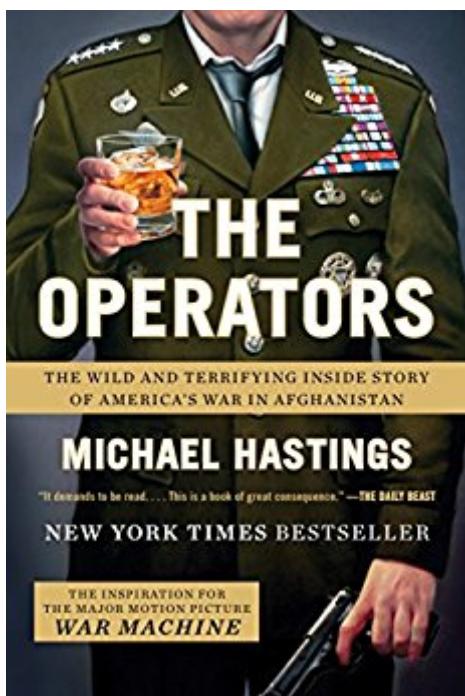


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# The Operators: The Wild And Terrifying Inside Story Of America's War In Afghanistan



## Synopsis

The inspiration for the Netflix original movie *War Machine*, starring Brad Pitt, Tilda Swinton, and Ben Kingsley. From the author of *The Last Magazine*, a shocking behind-the-scenes portrait of our military commanders, their high-stake maneuvers, and the political firestorm that shook the United States. In the shadow of the hunt for Bin Laden and the United States' involvement in the Middle East, General Stanley McChrystal, the commanding general of international and U.S. forces in Afghanistan, was living large. His loyal staff liked to call him a "rock star." During a spring 2010 trip, journalist Michael Hastings looked on as McChrystal and his staff let off steam, partying and openly bashing the Obama administration. When Hastings' article appeared in *Rolling Stone*, it set off a political firestorm: McChrystal was unceremoniously fired. In *The Operators*, Hastings picks up where his *Rolling Stone* coup ended. From patrol missions in the Afghan hinterlands to senior military advisors' late-night bull sessions to hotel bars where spies and expensive hookers participate in nation-building, Hastings presents a shocking behind-the-scenes portrait of what he fears is an unwinnable war. Written in prose that is at once eye-opening and other times uncannily conversational, readers of *No Easy Day* will take to Hastings' unyielding first-hand account of the Afghan War and its cast of players.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book has voice and perspective, very hard to put down. Some will be put off by its tone, which is probably why those who don't like it should consider their positions on it honestly. This feels starkly honest and cynical to the point of pessimism, but it's impossible to ignore the logic presented.

Interesting how our history keeps repeating itself, apparently we learn nothing. More lives wasted in a foreign war with no end in site. Surprised to see Mike Flynn's name pop up considering the news of today.

A stunning look at the milieu of a four-star general in the U.S. Army, including the missteps and blinkered view that could lead him and his staff to cross the line of acceptable behavior--and have enough hubris to invite a journalist to join his entourage, leading to public humiliation, removal from duty, and early retirement. One fact that may surprise most readers--General McChrystal is a highly intelligent, well-read individual. He taught a course at Yale after his retirement.

I bought this for insight into Afghan war, but found so much more. Hastings' chronicle of McChrystal's tenure in Afghanistan is witty and captivating. It also provides some insight into Gen. Michael Flynn who later briefly became National Security Adviser to Trump.

This disturbing picture of war and its reasons was as shocking as it was depressing. A must read for everyone especially those who still want to increase troops on the ground.

Super interesting first person account of a reporter who traveled with Gen. McCrystal. His reporting in Rolling Stone precipitated McCrystal's firing by President Obama, and some believe led to his ultimate death in a single car accident in 2013.

This book (I bought the audio version) is not for the weak at heart! It's an eye-opener in to the world of DC and our military. I'm sorry Michael won't be around to hold their feet to the fire with another book! Tell it like it really is.

1. Well and graphically written.
2. Very accurate portrayal of the insulation/compartmentalization of commanders and command.
3. Must reading for junior and senior officers and NCOs. Reminds of 'Bright, Shining Lie.'

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