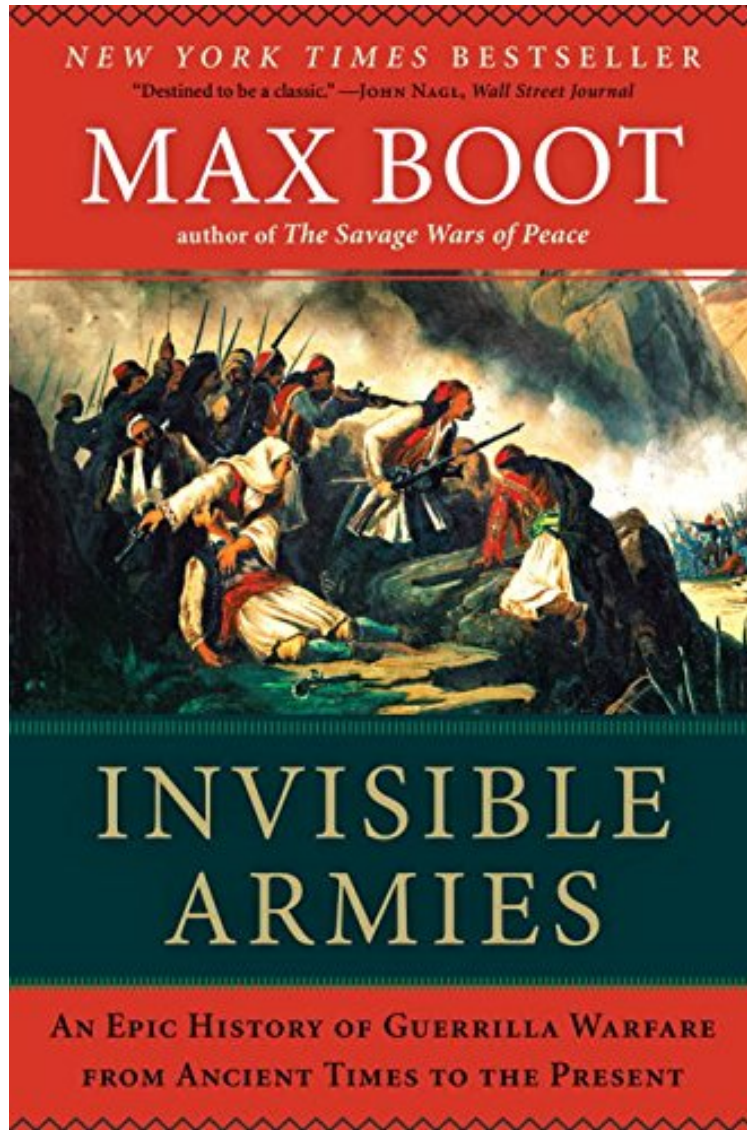


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Invisible Armies: An Epic History of Guerrilla Warfare from Ancient Times to the Present

Max Boot

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Max Boot : Invisible Armies: An Epic History of Guerrilla Warfare from Ancient Times to the Present before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Invisible Armies: An Epic History of Guerrilla Warfare from Ancient Times to the Present:

33 of 34 people found the following review helpful. Ok,By Terry TuckerI am on the fence about this book. If you are a novice, i highly recommend it. if you are advanced in your understanding of insurgency, then this is a potential desk

reference and quick guide. Other books such as Robert B Asprey, *War in the Shadows*, Vo I and II; and Ian F.W. Beckett, *Modern Insurgencies and Counter-insurgencies* offer as good, if not better look at the use of terror and guerrilla war. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. *Broad, But Not Deep*. By Charles A mile broad and ten feet deep. Maybe that's inevitable with the breadth attempted, but it's hard to demonstrate anything but truisms when discussing literally scores of insurgencies over thousands of years. Nonetheless, there are some interesting points (notably pointing out the false dichotomy between Clausewitzian war and "Eastern" war, given that Chinese and Indian traditional war was in large formations); along with a half-hearted and unconvincing attempt to extend that observation to undercut Victor Davis Hanson's theses on the Western way of war). Also a fascinating database of insurgencies and a statistical analysis of their success over time. Also lots of interesting anecdotes. So worth reading, but perhaps not worth pondering beyond that. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. *Save your money*. By Customer This is an exceptionally poor resource if you are passionate about history. A sop to the revisionist community, the author makes himself appear foolish by inserting at every opportunity a disparaging editorial aside, or similarly meaningless commentators remark from the past, to establish his sensibilities about what transpired. Apparently, he has not heard that the best histories present the facts, not the author's aspirations for approval by a peer group through politically correct commentary. If you are looking for detailed discussion and analysis of insurgent tactics and strategies throughout history, look elsewhere. I really wanted to like this book, but, it is not a credible resource, rather it is entertainment.

"Destined to be the classic account of what may be the oldest . . . hardest form of war." --John Nagl, *Wall Street Journal* *Invisible Armies* presents an entirely original narrative of warfare, which demonstrates that, far from the exception, loosely organized partisan or guerrilla warfare has been the dominant form of military conflict throughout history. New York Times best-selling author and military historian Max Boot traces guerrilla warfare and terrorism from antiquity to the present, narrating nearly thirty centuries of unconventional military conflicts. Filled with dramatic analysis of strategy and tactics, as well as many memorable characters -- from Italian nationalist Giuseppe Garibaldi to the "Quiet American," Edward Lansdale -- *Invisible Armies* is "as readable as a novel" (Michael Korda, *Daily Beast*) and "a timely reminder to politicians and generals of the hard-earned lessons of history" (*Economist*). 70 illustrations; 8 maps

From *Booklist* Characterized by stealth, raids, and retreats, irregular warfare is a strategy of the weak against the strong, and has been, according to military-affairs writer Boot, ever since Alexander the Great was stymied in modern Afghanistan. Cataloging unconventional wars by the dozens, Boot considers factors that led to victory or defeat, factors common to rebels, whether motivated by tribal loyalty, nationalism, political ideology, or religious militancy. Ultimately distilling his massive historical survey into several precepts for analyzing insurgency, Boot concludes that a rebellion will most likely succeed if its irregular fighters cooperate with its conventional units; if it receives foreign assistance; and if it produces effective propaganda. Boot cites the American Revolution as a template and, likewise, Garibaldi's unification of Italy and Ho Chi Minh's Communist victory in Vietnam. Receiving Boot's equal attention are strategists who defeated twentieth-century insurgencies in the French and British Empires. Few but specialists know of Louis Lyautey; that his counterinsurgency ideas are ancestral to current U.S. military doctrine illustrates the current-affairs importance of Boot's presentation, which is impressively researched, astutely synthesized, and eminently readable. --Gilbert Taylor Max Boot has written a landmark book about a perennial and important challenge: guerrilla warfare. --Jon Meacham, author of the Pulitzer Prize winning *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House* A penetrating writer and thinker. Max Boot has produced the most definitive and comprehensive work to date on the dominant form of warfare of our times. From the origins of guerrilla warfare to current conflicts the reader travels through the centuries of time understanding the nature and character of unconventional warfare yet because of the power of Boot's narrative and sheer ability to tell a story, the reader can live the experience. A must read for scholars, military and government professionals and a fascinating journey for the general public. --General (ret.) Jack Keane, former Army Vice Chi This is the definitive treatment of guerrilla warfare through the ages -- a tour de force by a preeminent military historian who has advised generals, policymakers and political leaders on the subject. --Senator John S. McCain An expansive nuts-and-bolts historical survey from a keen military mind. The word "magisterial" is bandied about far too freely these days, but in the case of Max Boot's sweeping and deeply researched history of guerrilla warfare, it proves fair. Somewhere in the first third of Boot's book, you begin to realize that guerrilla wars (and terrorism and insurgencies) are the way we fight, while the formal set battles of, say, the Napoleonic wars are but an exception. --Lucas Wittmann There's no better guide to both the past and the future than *Invisible Armies*, the tour de force of a scholar as well as a man who's seen American adversaries and soldiers at work up close. Mr. Boot provides of some of the most important individual actors in military history, insurgent leaders like Washington, T.E. Lawrence, Mao, Castro, Ho Chi Minh and Osama bin Laden.... Mr. Boot's impressive work of military history is destined to be the classic account of what may be the oldest as well as the hardest form of war. --John Nagl [D] destined to be the classic account of what may be the oldest as well as the hardest form of war. --John

Nagl Lively.... A timely reminder to politicians and generals of the hard-earned lessons of history. Enormous, brilliant, and important... should be required reading in the White House and Pentagon.... Lucid, enlightening, and highly readable. --Michael Korda A sweeping panorama that ranges over a vast terrain... thoughtful, smart, fluent, with an eye for the good story. --Mark Mazover "[A] comprehensive history of guerrilla warfare, breezily written and chock-full of perceptive insights.... [Boot] has a great feel for details... a mighty impressive achievement, one that should be a bible for policymakers everywhere in the civilized world. --Steve Forbes "The word magisterial is bandied about far too freely these days, but in the case of Max Boot's sweeping and deeply researched history of guerrilla warfare, it proves fair. Somewhere in the first third of Boot's book, you begin to realize that guerrilla wars (and terrorism and insurgencies) are the way we fight, while the formal set battles of, say, the Napoleonic wars are but an exception. --Lucas Wittmann "For the historian and journalist Max Boot to use the phrase an epic history in the subtitle of his own book implies a magnificent lack of modesty in his own capabilities. The work more than matches the hype. This pathbreaking book should thus be on the reading list of every NATO officer hoping to defeat an insurgency. --Andrew Roberts "There's no better guide to both the past and the future than Invisible Armies, the tour de force of a scholar as well as a man who's seen American adversaries and soldiers at work up close. "A landmark book about a perennial and important challenge: guerilla warfare. --Jon Meacham, author of the Pulitzer Prize winning American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House"... [I]mpressively researched, astutely synthesized, and eminently readable. "Fascinating. . . . Beginning with the barbarians at the gates of the Roman Empire, a wonderful and valuable historic narrative filled with colorful characters. --Walter Isaacson "Starred review. A military historian and senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, Boot presents a sweeping, well-written, and comprehensively documented history of guerilla war. The result is a compelling narrative and perceptive analysis: a must read in today's world. "The most definitive and comprehensive work to date on the dominant form of warfare of our times. A must read for scholars, military and government professionals and a fascinating journey for the general public. --General (ret.) Jack Keane, former Army Vice Chi "Sweeping, meticulous, and exceptionally thoughtful. Max Boot's Invisible Armies is an important, compelling contribution to our understanding of how men make war. --Rick Atkinson, author of An Army at Dawn and The Day of Battle "Boot, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and the author of The Savage Wars of Peace, presents an astutely synthesized account of insurgency and counterinsurgency through the ages from the Peloponnesian War to the post-Sept. 11 battlefields of today. --Ihsan Taylor "A magisterial overview of insurgency and counterinsurgency, peppered with fascinating personalities. The author counts 442 insurgencies since the American Revolution, 25.2 percent of which were successful. --Gerard DeGroot "About the Author A renowned military historian and Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, Max Boot is a regular contributor to the New York Times, Foreign Policy, the Los Angeles Times, and other publications. The author of The Savage Wars of Peace and the New York Times best-selling Invisible Armies, he lives in New York.