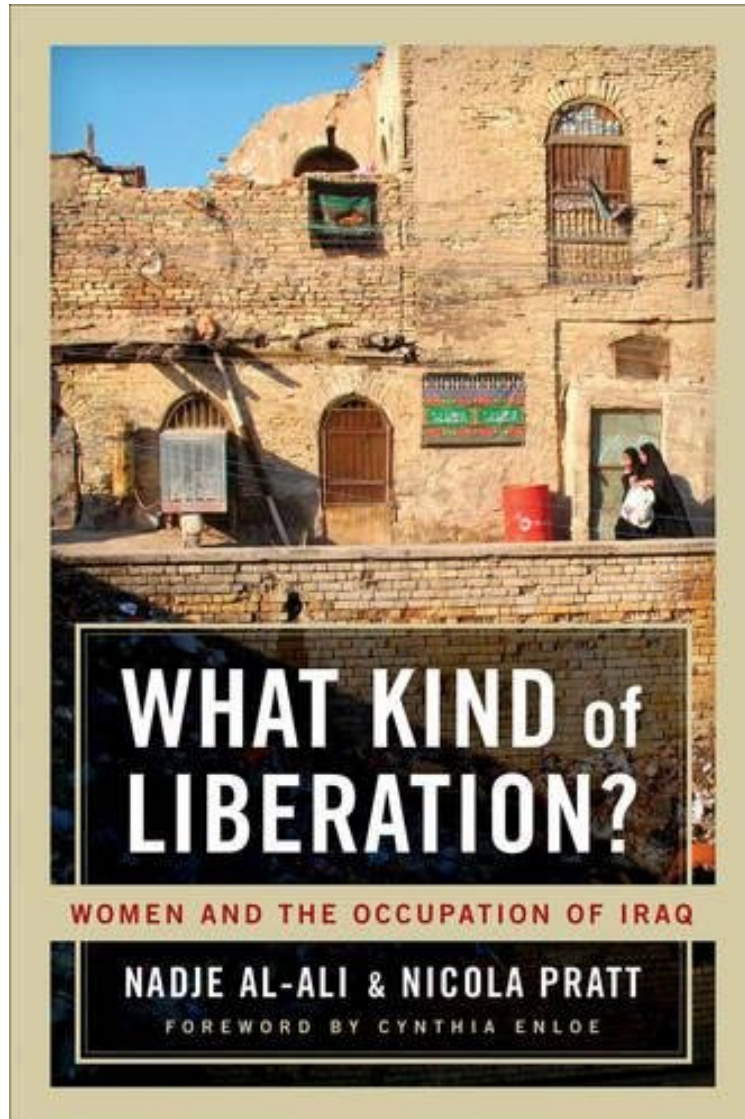


What Kind of Liberation?: Women and the Occupation of Iraq

Nadje Al-Ali, Nicola Pratt

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#1628960 in Books 2009-01-07 2010-01-12Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .75 x 6.00l, .90 #File Name: 0520265815240 pages | File size: 73.Mb

Nadje Al-Ali, Nicola Pratt : What Kind of Liberation?: Women and the Occupation of Iraq before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Kind of Liberation?: Women and the Occupation of Iraq:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazing -- a must readBy Someone's MomAl-Ali's original and timely work provides a general, readable introduction to feminist international relations, using the recent Iraq War as a case study. Al-Ali, a reader in gender studies at London's School of Oriental and African Studies and Pratt, a lecturer

in comparative politics at the University of East Anglia, collected their data through interviewing over one hundred Iraqi women in the period 2003-2007. Interviews were conducted in Jordan, Egypt, the United States and Great Britain. In this work they argue that imperial wars frequently have the liberation and empowerment of women as one of their explicit goals, but that that goal is seldom met. Instead, they marshal empirical evidence to demonstrate how violence, a tendency to seek accommodation with Islamic culture, as well as the marginalization of women politicians and women's nongovernmental organizations in the crucial state-building stages of governance led to women occupying mostly token positions within Iraq's new government. Chapters focus on the position of women under Saddam Hussein, the nascent Iraqi women's movement, and a final chapter which situates their argument more broadly within the feminist literature.

In the run-up to war in Iraq, the Bush administration assured the world that America's interest was in liberation especially for women. The first book to examine how Iraqi women have fared since the invasion, *What Kind of Liberation?* reports from the heart of the war zone with dire news of scarce resources, growing unemployment, violence, and seclusion. Moreover, the book exposes the gap between rhetoric that placed women center stage and the present reality of their diminishing roles in the "new Iraq." Based on interviews with Iraqi women's rights activists, international policy makers, and NGO workers and illustrated with photographs taken by Iraqi women, *What Kind of Liberation?* speaks through an astonishing array of voices. Nadjie Al-Ali and Nicola Pratt correct the widespread view that the country's violence, sectarianism, and systematic erosion of women's rights come from something inherent in Muslim, Middle Eastern, or Iraqi culture. They also demonstrate how in spite of competing political agendas, Iraqi women activists are resolutely pressing to be part of the political transition, reconstruction, and shaping of the new Iraq.

A timely addition to scholarship on Iraq.