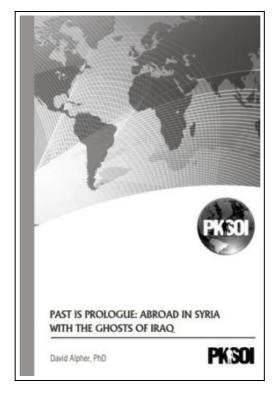
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## PAST IS PROLOGUE: ABROAD IN SYRIA WITH THE GHOSTS OF IRAQ (PAPERBACK)



Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. In the lead-up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the short-lived Of?ce of Reconstruction and Humanitar-ian Assistance (ORHA) brie?y held a mandate to lead post-war reconstruction efforts. The Coalition Provi-sional Authority (CPA) under L. Paul Bremer replaced ORHA before its plans could be implemented. Au-topsies of replacing the ORHA and the consequences of the CPA s subsequent handling of the Iraq mission abound, but they focused on the Iraq mission as a historical narrative. However, the United States (US) now faces a lengthening list of probable reconstruction and stabilization (RS) missions in the near future. Rather than burying the autopsies, the contrast be-tween ORHA s plans and the CPA s implementation offers instructive lessons for future RS missions. Such a study is of paramount importance as the short list of countries likely to need RS assistance includes Syria, Libya, Yemen, Central African Re-public and South Sudan as well as, sadly, Iraq again. Whether or not the US military is deployed to bring an end to the crises, failure to assist in RS processes following a cease?re is not an option. The power vacu-ums that follow crisis are a perfect breeding ground for extremism, transnational crime and recurrent vio-lence, all of which have international, as well as na-tional and regional security rami?cations.This paper presents a framework that planners can use to speed the planning process and improve trac-tion. RS contexts require the ability to function at a high level within conditions of ambiguity, violence and chaos. Using past lessons as principles rather than ?xed points on a checklist speeds implementation and guides efforts from a stronger and more ?exible start-ing point. As governance reform is a core thrust within US intervention frameworks, this...



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