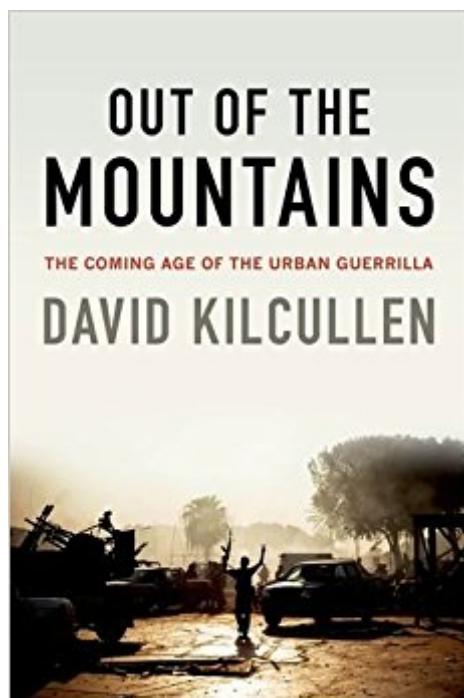


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# Out Of The Mountains: The Coming Age Of The Urban Guerrilla



## **Synopsis**

When Americans think of modern warfare, what comes to mind is the US army skirmishing with terrorists and insurgents in the mountains of Afghanistan. But the face of global conflict is ever-changing. In *Out of the Mountains*, David Kilcullen, one of the world's leading experts on current and future conflict, offers a groundbreaking look at what may happen after today's wars end. This is a book about future conflicts and future cities, and about the challenges and opportunities that four powerful megatrends--population, urbanization, coastal settlement, and connectedness--are creating across the planet. And it is about what cities, communities and businesses can do to prepare for a future in which all aspects of human society--including, but not limited to, conflict, crime and violence--are changing at an unprecedented pace. Kilcullen argues that conflict is increasingly likely to occur in sprawling coastal cities, in peri-urban slum settlements that are enveloping many regions of the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Asia, and in highly connected, electronically networked settings. He suggests that cities, rather than countries, are the critical unit of analysis for future conflict and that resiliency, not stability, will be the key objective. Ranging across the globe--from Kingston to Mogadishu to Lagos to Benghazi to Mumbai--he offers a unified theory of "competitive control" that explains how non-state armed groups such as drug cartels, street gangs, and warlords draw their strength from local populations, providing useful ideas for dealing with these groups and with diffuse social conflicts in general. His extensive fieldwork on the ground in a series of urban conflicts suggests that there will be no military solution for many of the struggles we will face in the future. We will need to involve local people deeply to address problems that neither outsiders nor locals alone can solve, drawing on the insight only locals can bring, together with outsider knowledge from fields like urban planning, systems engineering, renewable energy, conflict resolution and mediation. This deeply researched and compellingly argued book provides an invaluable roadmap to a future that will increasingly be crowded, urban, coastal, connected--and dangerous.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

A Look Inside: Out of the Mountains: The Coming Age of the Urban Guerrilla [Click Images to Enlarge] A mine-resistant ambush protected vehicle (MRAP), a few minutes before the ambush in Dara-i Nur District, Afghanistan, September 10, 2009. Photo by David Kilcullen. Feral City--African Union peacekeepers drive past shops and power lines on the streets of Mogadishu, June 2012. Photo by David Kilcullen. Competitive control-- Somali clan militia at a checkpoint on the outskirts of Mogadishu, June 2012. Photo by David Kilcullen. Competitive control-- a Somali building destroyed by militants as punishment for its owners' failure to pay insurgent taxes. Photo taken by David Kilcullen. Hindu Kush, Afghanistan-- the remote landlocked mountain environment has become the default for many western militaries, diplomats, and development agencies since 2001. Photo taken by David Kilcullen. Competitive control-- African Union troops with weapons, radios, and ammunition captured from al-Shabaab during the battle of Afgoye, June 2012. Photo taken by David Kilcullen. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"An iconoclastic new book on future urban conflicts." --David Ignatius, *Washington Post*"Out of the Mountains isn't brimming with tactical solutions to such problems. Just as present-day counterinsurgency doctrine didn't materialize overnight, the answers to the questions Mr. Kilcullen poses will evolve over time. But his insistence that it is 'time to drag ourselves -- body and mind -- out of the mountains' serves as a reminder that complacency remains one of the most serious threats to U.S. national security." --*Wall Street Journal*"Kilcullen has a rare ability to combine serious theory with the insight of an experienced practitioner." --*Foreign Affairs*"Out of the Mountains will appeal to a broad range of readers -- social scientists, security experts and military officers, urban planners and technologists, and a general readership interested in how today's global trends will shape tomorrow's world. Readers who enjoy the work of Robert Kaplan or even Paul Theroux -- the engaging mix of adventure writing with sophisticated social and political analysis -- will find Kilcullen quite appealing." --*Washington Monthly*"Although an enemy of the state, I must concede that this is

a brilliant book by the most unfettered and analytically acute mind in the military intelligentsia. Kilcullen unflinchingly confronts the nightmare of endless warfare in the slums of the world." --Mike Davis, author of *Planet of Slums*"David Kilcullen brilliantly illuminates a coming dystopian urban world, part *Blade Runner* and part *Minority Report*. He cogently argues that we must rapidly find a way to build our own security networks to prepare for the coming age of urban guerrillas. *Out of the Mountains* crystallizes this sadly probable future in vivid and practical terms." --Admiral James Stavridis, USN (Ret), Former Supreme Allied Commander at NATO and Dean, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University"Kilcullen delivers a lucid, important study that American leaders should read." --Kirkus Reviews

This is a good book but definitely not a page turner. It goes into great detail on every topic which makes it drawn out at times. The actual subject is very interesting and Kilcullen does an amazing job examining several issues through the lens of a sociologist as well as military and political expert. If you can commit to reading through the dry parts, this is a very interesting book and has some fresh ideas/concepts.

In depth analysis of current (and future) urban environments and how security, armies, governments, businesses and illegitimate organizations operate within.

Although written by a soldier and filled with a lot of recent military history, and despite its title, the book is first and foremost about the complexities of megacities as systems, and the unique challenges they will present to civilian and military leaders alike. There is also a lot of very insightful analysis of the dynamics of population groups immersed in these challenges, and well-reasoned although not completely original theory of "competitive control" as it drives these dynamics. An excellent read.

excellent book.

David has made it clear where major cities are headed. Hopefully, the local leaders will heed the warning and direct their path away from sustainability toward adaptability. Without enlightened global leadership the world will be a ghetto.

I liked this book a great deal. Kilcullen is an excellent writer who makes his case for dealing with the

many critical problems the world faces in a sensible, down-to-earth manner. The solutions he provides in the book to the problems we face right now--and will continue to face unless we do something about them--seem very practical and based on personal experience. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who is the least bit concerned about the fate of the planet on which he or she lives and his or her own personal fate.

Well researched and written by a seminal thinker. An author who has both operational and academic credentials. His thesis extends beyond the military or counter insurgency worlds and raises questions about how social and political structures will emerge (or survive) over the coming decades. If you care about geopolitics or diplomacy a must read

Absolutely fascinating look into the coming trends in technology, population, social changes (especially in the third world), law enforcement and warfare. It changed the way I think of the current news and the future. Highly recommended!

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