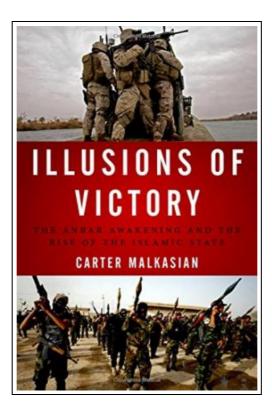
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ILLUSIONS OF VICTORY: THE ANBAR AWAKENING AND THE RISE OF THE ISLAMIC STATE (HARDBACK)

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Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2017. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. In the years immediately following the 2006 Surge of American troops in Iraq, observers of America s counterinsurgency war there regarded the defeat of Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) in Anbar Province as one of the strategy s signature victories. With the assistance of American troops, the fractious tribal sheiks in that province united in an Awakening that ultimately led to the defeat of the legendarily brutal AQI. The success of the Awakening convinced many that smart, properly resourced counterinsurgency strategies could in fact work. Even more, the episode showed that victory could be snatched from the jaws of defeat. A decade later, the situation in Anbar Province is dramatically different. Beginning in 2014, much of the province fell to the AQI s successor organization, ISIS, which swept through the region with shocking ease. ISIS quickly took Ramadi, the province s main city and the locus of the 2006 Awakening. In The Shadow of Anbar, Carter Malkasian looks at the wreckage to explain why Americans initial optimism was misplaced and why victory was not sustainable. Malkasian begins by tracing the origins of the Awakening of the sheiks against AQI, which by 2005 dominated the province. Capitalizing on the feuding among traditional sheik leaders, AQI used Islam as a unifying ideology and initiated a reign of terror that cowed opponents into submission. With some help from the US, the sheiks rebounded by unifying against AQI through the Awakening movement. That, coupled with an increased American troop presence beginning in 2006, ultimately led to the defeat of AQI. After chronicling how this transpired, Malkasian turns his attention to what happened in its wake. The US left, and in a naked power play the Shiite government in...

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