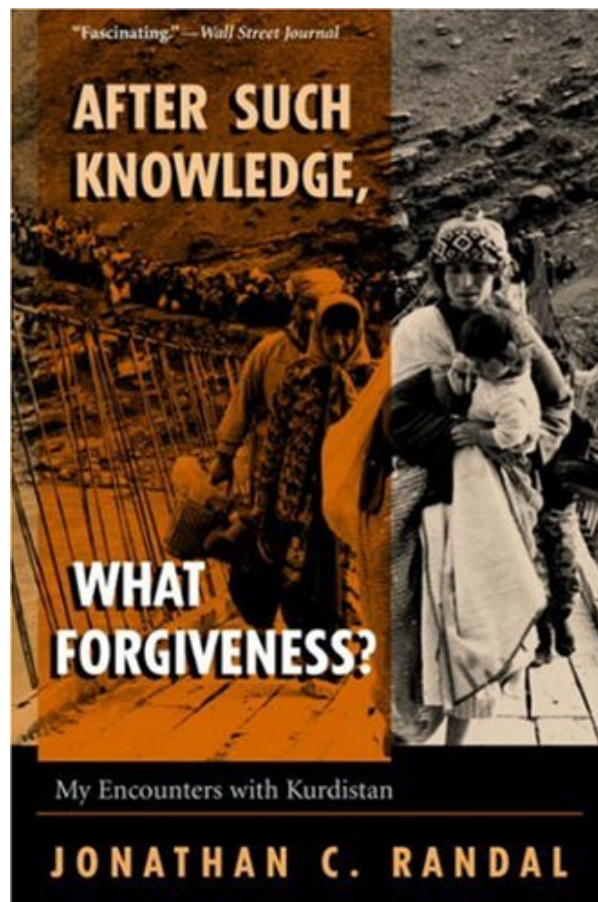
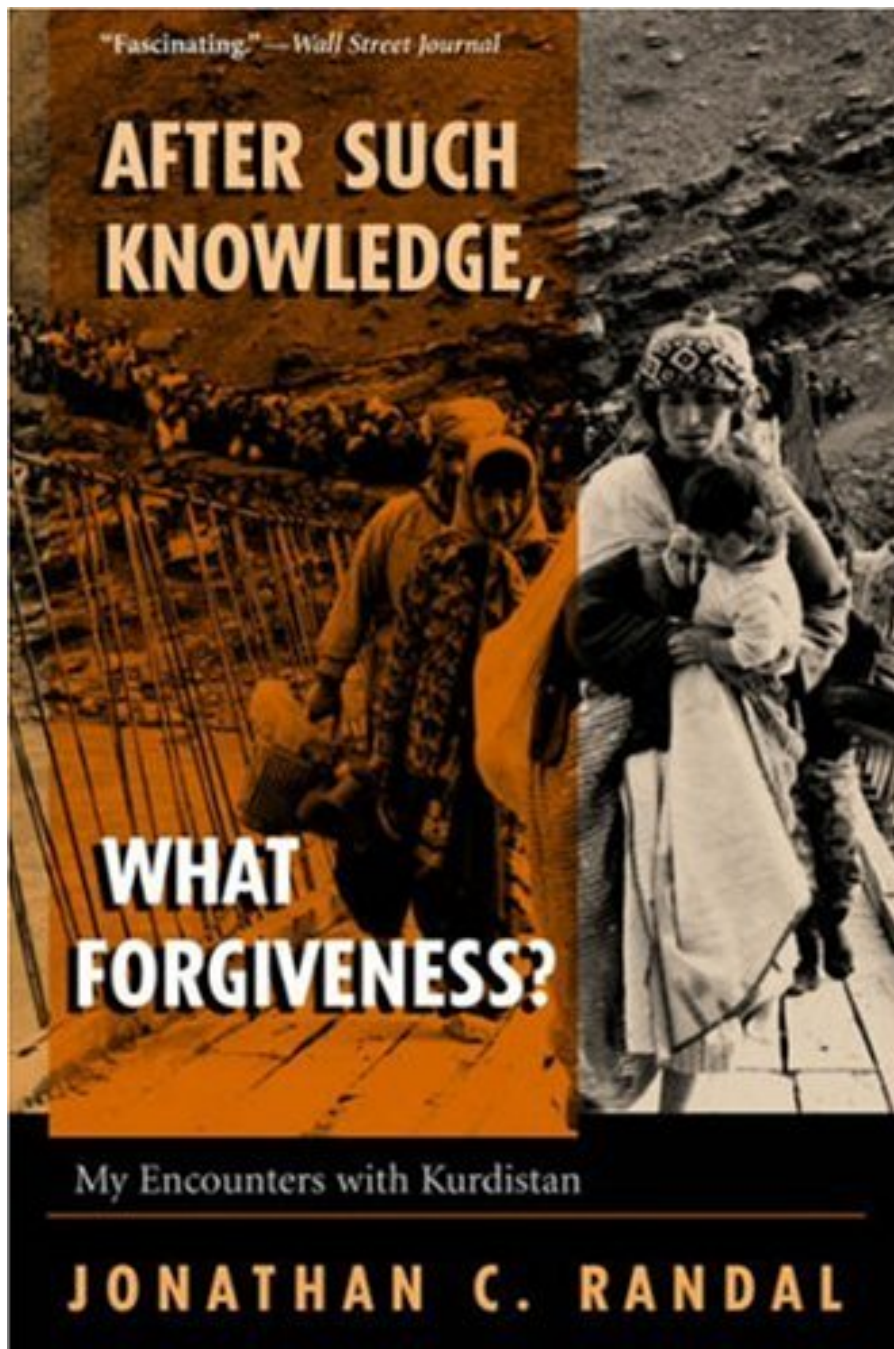


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# AFTER SUCH KNOWLEDGE,

# WHAT FORGIVENESS?

My Encounters with Kurdistan

**JONATHAN C. RANDAL**

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Years ago, noting that Kurds—the largest ethnic group in the world without their own country—were involved in every major story he covered in Iran, Israel, Turkey, Lebanon, and Iraq, veteran reporter Jonathan Randal decided to produce this first-hand report on Kurdistan, a shocking, tragic account of diplomacy and politics in the Middle East, and a gripping adventure story about being a war reporter in the 1990s. Throughout the Kurds' history, world powers have promised to help them achieve autonomy, and each time the Kurds have been betrayed. But they are also masters of betrayal: Randal, recording their talent for vehement internecine warfare and their gift for friendship, takes us behind the headlines to the inner story of power politics in the Middle East. His sympathetic knowledge of Kurdish history and his unparalleled access to Kurdish leaders and to diplomats, ministers, intelligence agents, warriors, and journalists makes him the only writer able to get this story for us and discover the truth.

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## Amazon.com Review

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best book on subject bar none

By Jonathan Randal

This is the first and remains the best book on the Kurds' long struggle for dignity. I should know since I wrote it. For doubters, please consider that the State Department made it mandatory reading before W's invasion of Iraq in 2003 in order to acquaint its diplomats with repeated U.S. skullduggery at the expense of the Kurds. Now that Iraqi Kurds are oil-rich and fascinated with emulating the material wealth of Dubai, this book explains their elders' more elevating struggle for Kurdish nationalism's very existence. Jonathan Randal

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Report on the Kurdish People

By Nick and Lauren

After reading *A Road Unforeseen: Women Fight the Islamic State* by Meredith Tax, I wanted to continue my acquisition of knowledge on the Kurds. I've had Randal's book in my library for at least a decade. No idea why but I'm glad I kept it through all the purges.

Randal actually traveled to Kurdistan, at great peril, several times, during the 90s. As a seasoned journalist for both the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, he undertook this adventure with a practiced eye for detail. His ability to get close to key players in the events of the 90s (including the Gulf War) make this story part-history, part-adventure story. Randal gives the reader a simple but thorough history of the Kurdish people, and includes, in no uncertain terms, the constant conflict, betrayals, and lost chances for autonomy. He doesn't take sides. All players are equally to blame. The Kurds themselves are often both victim and perpetrator. Randal is a clear, concise, and thorough writer, excellent for both the academic and the amateur.

My only regret is that this book was published in 1999 – and I'm interested in Randal's thoughts on the current situations, nearly 20 years later. But, given he was in his 40s and 50s during this book, it is unlikely he would undertake the same journey in his 70s. This is unfortunate, as his practice eye and experiences would bring to light stories we aren't going to hear otherwise. While it doesn't include current events, those events are directly related to what Randal describes in the book. And to understand the present condition of the Kurdish people, one must look to their past.

Recommended for anyone interested in some of the roots of the current condition in the Middle East, particularly those that pertain to the Kurdish situation, and the war in Syria.

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

A good history of the modern Kurdish cause

By AMR

This book provides a good overview of the Kurdish cause in the last fifty years but it doesn't give much detail on the long and very old history that Kurdistan has. The book provides good detail on the genocide committed by Iraqi forces in operation Anfal and the other abuses in and betrayals by Iran, Turkey, the Soviet Union and the United States. The book will also displace the opinions held by many Americans that the US always stood for global equality, it also tells how the Americans supported Saddam Hussein for many years and armed him to the teeth and also supported Turkey who also committed acts which are also considered genocidal.

In criticism of this book the author, Jonathan C. Randal, in several places throughout the book does seem to be trying to boost his ego by going into great detail describing how he reached Massoud Barzani and Talabani in their mountain safe havens. Much of his detail describing his trips through Kurdistan serve no purposes in many cases other than to promote Randal's image of himself - as a brave journalist reporting the injustices of the world.

The author does tell the story in an incredibly unbiased and impartial way even when describing the terrible atrocities committed by the Iraqi forces in the Anfal campaign. The book should convince any neutral that the Kurds have been treated atrociously by the international community and are among the world's longest suffering and most suffering people.

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