BLOOD YEAR: David Kilcullen

Within the heart of David Kilcullen’s novel, *Blood Year*, a sole message is depicted to the reader: President Barack Hussein Obama has thrown away all the good accomplished by the surge of US troops in Iraq in his rush for a precipitate withdrawal. Kilcullen has authored a novel that provides the reader with an insight into the workings of Islamic State, and its successes among failures. The book talks about a “Blood Year” – massacres and beheadings, fallen cities, collapsed and collapsing states, the unravelling of a decade of foreign policy and military strategy. Kilcullen calls on twenty-five years’ experience to depict the strategy and history to make sense of different crises affecting countries of the Middle East. He looks to strategy and history to make sense of these crises. What are the roots of the global jihadist movement? What is ISIS? What threats does it pose for Australia? What does its rise say about the effectiveness of the War on Terror since 9/11, and what does a coherent strategy look like after a disastrous year?

In turn, *Blood Year* is a vivid, urgent account of the War on Terror by a thinker who helped shape its policy and witnessed its evolution on the ground, over a span of more than twenty-five years.

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