



# War and Decision: Inside the Pentagon at the Dawn of the War on Terrorism

*Douglas J. Feith*

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In the years since the attacks of September 11, 2001, journalists, commentators, and others have published accounts of the Bush Administration's war on terrorism. But no senior Pentagon official has offered an inside view of those years, or has challenged the prevailing narrative of that war—until now.

Douglas J. Feith, the head of the Pentagon's Policy organization, was a key member of Donald Rumsfeld's inner circle as the Administration weighed how to protect the nation from another 9/11. In *War and Decision*, he puts readers in the room with President Bush, Vice President Cheney, Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, Condoleezza Rice, Colin Powell, General Tommy Franks, and other key players as the Administration devised its strategy and war plans. Drawing on thousands of previously undisclosed documents, notes, and other written sources, Feith details how the Administration launched a global effort to attack and disrupt terrorist networks; how it decided to overthrow the Saddam Hussein regime; how it came to impose an occupation on Iraq even though it had avoided one in Afghanistan; how some officials postponed or impeded important early steps that could have averted major problems in Iraq's post-Saddam period; and how the Administration's errors in war-related communications undermined the nation's credibility and put U.S. war efforts at risk.

Even close followers of reporting on the Iraq war will be surprised at the new information Feith provides—presented here with balance and rigorous attention to detail. Among other revelations, *War and Decision* demonstrates that the most far-reaching warning of danger in Iraq was produced not by State or by the CIA, but by the Pentagon. It reveals the actual story behind the allegations that the Pentagon wanted to "anoint" Ahmad Chalabi as ruler of Iraq, and what really happened when the Pentagon challenged the CIA's work on the Iraq-al Qaida relationship. It offers the first accurate account of Iraq postwar planning—a topic widely misreported to date. And it presents surprising new portraits of Rumsfeld, Rice, Powell, Richard Armitage, L. Paul Bremer, and others—revealing how differences among them shaped U.S. policy.

With its blend of vivid narrative, frank analysis, and elegant writing, *War and Decision* is like no other book on the Iraq war. It will interest those who have been troubled by conflicting accounts of the planning of the war, frustrated by the lack of firsthand insight into the decision-making process, or skeptical of conventional wisdom about Operation Iraqi Freedom and the global war on terrorism—efforts the author continues to support.

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on Terrorism can to be your new friend when you're really feel alone and confuse in what must you're doing of that time.

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War and Decision NPR coverage of War and Decision: Inside the Pentagon at the Dawn of the War on Terrorism by Douglas J. Feith. News, author interviews, critics' picks and more. War and Decision. Books. War and Decision. Inside the Pentagon at the Dawn of the War on Terrorism. by Douglas J. Feith. Hardcover, 674 pages, Harpercollins, List Price: \$27.95 |. The story of the American decision to go to war against Iraq in March 2003 is straightforward. The attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, changed the strategic outlook of President George W. Bush. He accepted the calls from some in his administration, for which he had previously shown no particular enthusiasm, that a military campaign to unseat Iraqi president Saddam Hussein was a vital American security interest in the context of the new "war on terrorism." Once that decision was made, arguments were marshaled (with less than rigorous regard for their factual accuracy and unseeml War and Decision: Inside the Pentagon at the Dawn of the War on Terrorism is a memoir written by Douglas Feith, former Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, in which he presents a history of the beginning of the War on Terrorism and the campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq. The book was released on April 8, 2008. In addition to its narrative, which largely details the period from summer 2001 until June 2004, the book contains a 30-page appendix with facsimiles of United States government memos and other

War and Decision. Last updated April 22, 2019. War and Decision: Inside the Pentagon at the Dawn of the War on Terrorism. Book cover. Author. The invasion occurred as part of a declared war against international terrorism and its sponsors under the administration of U.S. President George W. Bush following the unrelated September 11 terrorist attacks. Ray Dubois, of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and a Pentagon colleague of Feith's, said: "Were I to write my book of my Pentagon experiences, I would hope that I would be as even-handed and un-strident--I guess two words that are not often associated with Washington-- but I would hope to be as. The war on terrorism, an unconventional conflict, challenges us to answer even the most basic questions: When did the war start? Who is the enemy? Are we winning or losing? How will we know when it is over? Does it make sense to say we are at war with terrorism, which is an activity, not an enemy? How can we fight an enemy whose troops are scattered around the world, many of them living in countries with which we are not at war? These questions can be debated at length from many angles"but 9/11 left little time for elaborate deliberation. volunteer officer between tours at the Pentagon. He signaled that he shared my wait-and-see attitude. Crouch and I kept to our schedule, moving along to an event with English-speaking reporters.