

**مركز البيدر للدراسات والتخطيط**

**Al-Baidar Center For Studies And Planning**



## **Book review**

# **Blood Tribute: Billions Wasted, Lives Lost, And the greed of giant corporations in Iraq**

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**Research Department**

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## About Center

Baidar Center for Studies and Planning is a non-governmental and non-profit organization established in 2015 and registered with the NGO Directorate in the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in Baghdad.

The Center seeks to contribute to developing the state and its institutions, by proposing ideas and practical solutions to the main problems and challenges facing the state, including improving public sector management, policies and strategic planning, using reliable data and best practices. The Center engages the relevant authorities in the state with regular meetings to support this objective and utilises the support of international organizations dedicated to assisting Iraq's development. The Center also seeks to support economic reforms, sustainable development and provide technical assistance to the public and private sectors. The Center also seeks to support development of the private sector to provide job opportunities for citizens through training and upskilling, in a way that reduces dependence on government institutions and contributes to supporting and diversifying the country's economy.

The Center aims to utilise the vast amount of potential in Iraq's human resources by organizing programs to prepare and develop promising young people, including leaders capable of proposing, adopting and implementing visions and future plans that advance society and preserve its value system based on the commitment to a high moral standard and rejection of all types of corruption.

## **Book review**

# **Blood Tribute: Billions Wasted, Lives Lost, And the greed of giant corporations in Iraq**

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### **Book About:**

Apart from the military and political aspect that dominated the events of the American invasion of Iraq in 2003, The book : “Blood Tribute: Billions Wasted, Lives Lost, the greed of giant corporations in Iraq” by: T. Christian Miller in his three sections to reveal the other side of war, and highlight on American promises to rebuild Iraq at a time when its rich resources and wealth were scattered, instead chaos were spread and The Iraqi people paid a tribute of blood according to the great deception that the Iraqi people paid for with rivers of blood.

The writer begins by narrating the main events, starting with the fabrication of pretexts for the invasion of Iraq and the deception of public opinion, and ended with the destruction and devastation due to the American policy and the takeover of giant American multinational corporations as Bechtel, Fleur, Washington International Group, Bernie, Parsons, and CH2M Hill, Inc. over big contracts, disagreements appeared

between the State Department

and the Pentagon about controlling the money, preventing France, Germany and other companies from getting major reconstruction contracts., and at a later stage the announcement by David Kaye, the chief US weapons inspector in Iraq expressed its failure to find weapons of mass destruction, which was the main justification for launching that war, and intelligence information that was relied upon before the war was wrong, and hence the announcement of the American major general Bill McCoy that The united states of America “never intended to completely rebuild Iraq”.

This was preceded by the US President Bush’s announcement that “the rebuilding process has didn’t always go as we planned” and this contradicts what he declared at the beginning of the invasion that the goal of rebuilding is to make the infrastructure in Iraq the best in the area.

Therefore, it reveals the precise details of what was going on in the halls of American politics in its hidden dimension from the media in the middle the hustle and bustle of the war machine, where the writer deals with the ravages of American companies and whose behind them the politicians of the American conservative party to win the imaginary contracts for what it called by the US government The Reconstructing of Iraq, as the neoconservatives have promoted waging war through pretense that **getting rid of Saddam Hussein would**

**give the United States a chance to create a free and open democratic society** in the Middle East. Which later turned out to be discredited, just as Iraq was invaded and occupied through the lie of weapons of mass destruction, which was later revealed to be false. This shows the failure of American declared policy in the most important areas that it promised, represented by reconstruction, and the writer has drawn his information from records he collected during the interviews he conducted and the official documents he collected for more than two years, as well as his communications with the Los Angeles Times magazine about the reconstruction process in Iraq, in addition to visiting Iraq four times.

The book's main idea is launched to answer the reasons for the economic and military failure of the most powerful country in the world the reconstruction in Iraq idea? How can a country that was able to reach the moon be unable to establish a sewage system in Baghdad's slums? after promising the world to make Iraq a beacon of democracy and prosperity in the region, and its failure to realize those promises through a series of violence that claimed lives

of American soldiers and Iraqi citizens, all for a blood, loss of lives, waste of money and loss of opportunities, and that the price of this wasted blood is billions of dollars of US taxpayers that has been stolen or wasted.

The world has followed the American promises made by its leaders about the reconstruction program for Iraq after the occupation, and the United States prepared and held international and regional conferences on the subject, talked about the large numbers of grants, loans and financial facilities that were provided to Iraq in order to reconstruction. The American initiative had promised to provide \$6.18 billion, and Madrid conference promised to commit to it by providing \$33 billion, but nothing has been rebuilt except for painting school facades and some buildings, which reveals the falseness of the previous allegations, as the reconstruction operations were taking place according to What follows:

- . The dominance of a large number of American companies on construction contracts.

- . The costs of contracts are higher than their real costs.

- . Wasting large funds allocated for reconstruction in secondary projects.

- . The major fraud in the description of contracts for construction and counting maintenance and restoration operations are part of project implementation procedures.

It was found that 73% of contracts worth more than \$5 million each were not offered in a bid to compete but is referred directly. On the other hand, the writer reveals the scramble of American companies to takeover and looting Iraq's fund,

Halliburton has been awarded a contract worth 7 billion dollars to rebuild the oil industry in Iraq, it considered that these reckless actions what led to the failure in the reconstruction of Iraq was equal in its breadth, sweep and tragedy, the war itself.

By highlighting that important stage in the history of Iraq, starting with fabricating pretexts for weapons of mass destruction, passing through false promises to build a democratic and civilized Iraq, and sowing chaos with bloody and secret deals between the major American companies on petroleum under the blessings of the American congress, Miller is trying to unravel the plans of American policy in the era of Bush Jr. and to usurp the resolutions of the Security Council to serve its imperial interests and put pressure on the peoples and governments of the region by telling the events and documenting its precise details: which was its beginning when the American forces took control of Baghdad, and the killing of Saddam's sons, his arrest in his secret hideout, the various bombings and assassinations and their economic and finance backgrounds.

The writer stops at important stations of the occupation stages of Iraq and the battles that preceded it in the halls of American policy, revealing the truth of the internal American conflict and the lies it invoked from for the occupation. Therefore, it deals with the other aspect of the Iraq war, which is the economic dimension and reconstruction. It shows the frantic race of American companies to obtain the major contracts,

and what is going on in the dark rooms to win major contracts in Iraq.

It stated that President Bush assigned a team to study the process of rebuilding Iraq, but the members of this team only met once, thirty-four days ago, to consult in complete secrecy in a National Defense University building in Washington. This team was obstructed by the Ministry of Defense, which is now in a state of desolation due to the lack of a sufficient number of members, and the lack of experience in the affairs of the Middle East, as he did not have the required number of translators.

### **Reconstruction and manifestations of corruption of the American occupation:**

The writer tried to reveal the major corruption deals of the American occupation authority and confirms the disbursement of Iraqi funds was characterized by all the manifestations of corruption that can be described and reveals the extent of major corruption and secret contracts acquired by US companies that have connections to officials. This is confirmed by the many criticisms directed to the financial behaviors of the occupation authority in Iraq from several US parties, most notably: the US Congress, international supervisory bodies, Iraqi parties, and other independent parties.

After identifying a number of employees which they were 30 men, were allocated most of their time for the purpose of



searching for how they can prevent a humanitarian disaster after the invasion and occupation of Iraq. Faith created a second group that focused only on the largest treasure in Iraq: OIL.

The US reports on this matter have recognized the waste of billions of dollars that were allocated for the reconstruction of Iraq during the administration of Paul Bremer, the civil governor of Iraq for the period from 2003–2004 specialized committees in the US Congress indicated that billions of dollars of Iraq's money deposited in the Federal Reserve Bank in New York was disposed of and distributed without original accounting entries or organized audit records. These amounts are estimated at \$6.91 billion representing represents revenue account balances of oil program in exchange for food and medicine, as well as Iraq's funds that has been frozen in the USA since 1990 and it was withdrawn from the aforementioned bank and the occupation authority disposed of it as it led the money to waste, forgery and misappropriation in random disbursement work.

Bush administration used its marketing framework for Iraq's revival of the Marshall Plan as a model for what the rebuilding plan could achieve. The American failure in reconstruction was evident in comparison to the size of the money that was spent, as the US Congress approved the amount of \$4.18 billion on the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund project, which is considered the largest aid package for a single country since

the Marshall Plan, which confirms the extent of the massive corruption in US politics. Stuart Brown, Inspector General of Iraq Reconstruction Issues, revealed the inability of the audit process to know the way in which \$9 billion of the Fund's money was spent.

And by Resolution No. 1483, the United Nations established the Development Fund, which made the assets of the occupation Of the international coalition led by the United States with the aim of preserving nearly a billion dollars found hidden in homes and the offices controlled by Saddam Hussein and his associates, in addition to the funds frozen abroad, the total funds of the Fund developments amounted to more than twenty billion dollars of Iraqi funds, and America was entrusted with that big money. This fund has turned into a money bag placed at the disposal of authority of the temporary coalition, whose fate is unknown.

Another manifestation of corruption by the US occupying authority was when the United Nations deposited an amount of \$5.2 billion in the Fund's account, the last funding from the Oil-for-Food Program account. The coalition decided to spend this amount in a period less than three months before the date of handing over power to the new Iraqi government 2004, and the program review committee approved contracts amounting to 9.1 billion in one day for new projects to be granted within six weeks, and the obsession with spending money has reached an insane level with the approaching date

of handing over power to the Iraqis and turning the month of July 2004 into a month of spending money and abandon accounting.

On the other hand, the United States scattered money across Iraq in the last days of the occupation just as storms scatter autumn leaves and money is shipped from the US Reserve bank by Air Force C-130 cargo aircraft weighed twenty-eight tons. This operation represented the largest currency conversion in the history of the Federal Reserve Bank. Has been transferred Fifteen tons of them were sent to the city of Erbil as a payment to the Kurds, who insisted on saying that Saddam did not give them money from the Oil-for-Food Program without any receipts Claire says, **“We were wasting the money that we were entrusted with. Our situation was like a blind mouse possessed lots of money.”**

US officials distributed large sums of cash to contractors and kept some for themselves to buy luxury cars and watches. A failure Republican candidate won the congressional elections with a contract worth \$18 million to guard Baghdad Airport, he then set out to steal the Coalition Provisional Authority. The Americans chose a used car salesman to buy weapons for the Iraqi army, with what can be expected from this the choice. A senior Pentagon official tried to pass a contract to a friend to set up a mobile phone service in Iraq, which is considered a market with profits of one billion dollars annually. Contractors with Political ties to the supply of old and unusable

ambulances and armored vehicles to run, putting millions in their pockets without accountability. And with billions of US dollars, earmarked for electric power stations, there is no city in Iraq with twenty-four hours of electricity hour a day.

The first recipients of these endowments were a diverse group of retired influential members of the Republican Party, American businessmen, and Iraqi immigrants. Each member of these groups has history and motives are questionable, as have large American corporations such as Halliburton and Bechtel, which has received secret invitations to participate in government bids worth hundreds of millions of dollars with a guarantee of profit. After the institutions receive their contracts, they hire poor workers from places like the remote forests of the American continent and rural areas of Nepal, sending them to their massacres in the wasteland of Iraq. Washington political officials scrambled to secure a share for their friends.

Among the other manifestations of corruption he mentions, many of which were done in complete secrecy: The choice took place on Trent, a former Transportation Secretary and friend of Donald Rumsfeld, supervised the Department of Iraq Transportation and Communications, but later expelled; Because he started negotiations aimed at selling the state-owned airline to a company whose name was mentioned in the oil-for-food scandal.

Likewise, Thomas Foyle, a Republican donor and classmate of the president Bush, is a specialist in corporate bailouts was chosen. His efforts to privatize the economy were seen as an abject failure. While the task of training a new police force in Iraq was assigned to Bernard Kerik, the NYPD commissioner chosen based on the recommendations of his authority figure girlfriend and his alleged ties to the Mafia.

On the other hand, Mike Karim was appointed chief advisor to the Ministry of Housing and Construction, a former advisor involved in a housing and urban development scandal was expelled after being accused of holding secret meetings to conclude deals between American contractors and their Iraqi counterparts.

Young conservative university graduates who do not have experience were also hired. Where they joined the lucky group of employees, including “Jay Halen”, 24 years old, assigned to him the task of supervising the work of opening the new Baghdad Stock Exchange. Meanwhile, “Simon Leiden,” the daughter of one of the most prominent neo-conservatives, Michael Leiden, became the actual director of the Reconstruction Project. Likewise, “Hooda Farooqi” won a \$80 million contract to protect Iraqi oil pipelines, as well as provide the army with weapons and equipment, and he has a company on the verge of bankruptcy, in addition to a former naval intelligence officer accused of smuggling weapons in the deal to supply Iraqis with tanks.

Politicians in Washington could not resist the temptation of billions upon billions of funds before their eyes, so they continuously intervened in the process of rebuilding Iraq in order to let their friends, constituencies, and business partners sometimes benefit. in time in which the author indicates that America contributed \$30 billion over three years to reconstruction, America paid this amount in cash that exceeded that received by any European country under the Marshall Plan. This amount was three times the amount that Germany received, which flattened its infrastructure and cities during the bombing was exposed to in the war.

It can be said that financial mismanagement has resulted in several violations, of which the most important are the following:

- . Lack of competitive bidding on major contracts.
- . Lack of information contained in contracts.
- . Paying bribes for contracts that are not subject to supervision.
- . Insufficient measures have been taken to prevent and control oil smuggling.
- . The head of the occupation authority, in his last days in Iraq, distributed several billions of dollars hastily before leaving Iraq (awarded to the Kurdistan Region).
- . The work of the occupation authority in stabilizing accounts

and spending operations was marred by many defects.

In accordance with Public Law 106-108 promulgated by the US Congress on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2003, an amount of 18,4\$ billion was allocated for the reconstruction of Iraq, as soon this project is caught in the clutches of bureaucracy, corporate greed, and the escalating violence in Iraq. The wife of the US President (Laura Bush) was among those who intervened in this process, as she assisted one of the close Families in passing a deal worth \$50 Million for the purpose of establishing an unnecessary children's hospital specialized in plastic surgery and advanced oncology, in a city where there is no clean water to drink.

Miller has revealed the frantic race to build Iraq's first mobile phone system for one of the biggest scandals of the reconstruction process, and the strangest chapter of the reconstruction; Because it pertains to a field that has not been exploited until that time, which is the air, and on the eve of the war, Iraq was the last important foreign market exploited in the world in this field.

### **Halliburton gang:**

Under the title (Haliburton Gang), the writer reveals that the name of a company has never been associated with the war in American history is like what the name of Halliburton was associated with Iraq, and no war in the history of this country has ever been associated with a single company as it

was associated with it. military...It's all goes to Dick Cheney, the Vice President, who were closely related to the company, and he was its CEO.

Miller infers the American failure with the issue of continuing violence. Thousands of American soldiers have died they are fighting the same angry youth who were supposed to get jobs. Private contractors, aid workers, and government employees, died while working on projects was supposed to receive the gratitude of the public. Tens of thousands of Iraqis died in guerrilla war and sectarian conflict draw their strength from ordinary, disaffected Iraqis.

And the author concludes by saying: The process of rebuilding has been impotent from all sides, as for the Bush administration and the neo-conservative engineers who planned and supported the war, they did not build their project to build a state on an empty mountain, and it indicates that the American president and his warmongers seemed as if they were planning a project of war and reconstruction in a country where there is no people, because of the lack of receding attacks against their soldiers, contractors suffer from funding cuts for their operations, and the tarnish of their reputation and getting their employees killed. But the most disappointed are the Iraqis themselves, who were believed that the United States could reform a country devastated by war, and twelve years of sanctions imposition.



### **The Deputies lunch and the future of Iraq:**

In another section of the book with the above title, the author says that it is not in the same way as war operations that falls under the purview of the Department of Defense, no US agency has been tasked with post Iraq war planning. In the spring of 2002, secret meetings were held in the White House to plan for a possible invasion and what after it, these meetings included senior officials from the National Security Council, the Pentagon, and the Department of State.

The meetings were completely confidential for all except the ministers and the general managers of the ministries and their deputies, and these meetings were called “the deputies lunch” and were held once a week at lunch time it had this given innocent name on the surface, and the true purpose of these meetings was unknown , no one from other members of the government or American public opinion knew what these meetings were about , and these methods have succeeded because the news of business lunches did not leak into a wider circle than the one to which they were confined. And after the success of that tactic and unrevealing those lunch meetings, which was among the regular participants in at the time Wolf Weitz, Deputy Secretary of Defense, his Deputy Douglas Feith, and Richard Armitage, Deputy Secretary of State, Mark Grossman, Under Secretary of State, John McLoughlin,

Deputy Director of the CIA, and Frank Miller and Zalmay Khalilzad on the National Security Council.

The conversations dealt with questions related to the future of Iraq, including: Who will rule Iraq? After the fall of Saddam Hussein? How will the police and the legal system work? How will the Iraqi people get food, water and electricity? How are Iraqi oil revenues will divide? And nothing happened in these meetings more than talk about these topics, as no detailed real plans have been developed. The writer stresses that the project for the future of Iraq did not result in a complete and coherent plan.

What draws attention in the pages that dealt with “The deputies Lunch” is the book’s author’s talk about assigning the task of planning the establishment of a civil administration for post-war Iraq to Douglas Feith, a strict and serious lawyer a leader of major corporations Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and one of the most prominent neo-conservatives in the American administration in order to draw up plans for civil administration in post-war Iraq. He has worked with Richard Brill the President of Pentagon’s Defense Policy Board during the Reagan administration. He was also the “hero of Israel” and one of the hard-liners of the Zionist Likud Party are thus the biggest war enthusiasts.

When the preparations for war accelerated at the end of 2002, Feith created what he called an “The office of special

plans”. Miller believes that he deliberately invented this misleading name, and it was the goal he sought its employees, which they were over thirty, to ensure the rapid detection of alleged weapons of mass destruction and destroy it.

Soon, he formed a new group, and the book confirms that its goal is to focus on the largest treasure in Iraq, which is oil for several reasons: among them is that the group believed that Iraq intended to use the oil weapon. As it used in the first Gulf War when it been set fire to more than seven hundred oil wells in Kuwait by using C4 explosives and the smoke was thrown into the air, eight hundred miles long, this paralyzed the Kuwaiti economy.

Feith has appointed one of his most trusted deputies to head the so-called “Energy Infrastructure Group”. That man was Michael Mobbs, his former partner in the law firm, and Mobbs prepared a study on the conditions of the Iraqi oil infrastructure. Although this study has not been published publicly, it is concluded that the Iraqi oil system was in worse shape than previously thought, and that oil pumping levels It stopped working and was too low, and the refining system of the resorts had failed.

Mobbs determined that US government agencies did not have the expertise to put out fires in the burning wells simultaneously revived the oil industry in Iraq, thus paving the way in front of the Pentagon to assign that task to Halliburton,

which was previously run by Dick Cheney US Vice President is the first decision regarding the award of commitments in the process of rebuilding Iraq.

On the other hand, we find the occupation army and its leaders starting with Rumsfeld and Franks and down the chain of commands were not at all interested in the process of rebuilding the state regardless of the plans and planners, the plans drawn up by the army did not include any specific details that were not coordinated and distributed properly that even the leaders of the army units are ignorant of the existence of these plans, quoting the statement of the General Franks, “I have a war that I have to fight ”.

In this field, the book deals with the bureaucratic struggle that Washington witnessed to control the process of rebuilding despite the confusion and the lack of a comprehensive plan for this process, which was called the stage four process, which was scheduled to be implemented after the fall of Baghdad. The book indicates that besides what was Mobbs doing, the military also planned this operation General Tommy Franks, by virtue of being the commander of the occupying forces, became the one with overall responsibility for governing Iraq, but he did not show enthusiasm for this task at all, he started urging US President George W. Bush to entrust the rebuilding process to other parties, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the military are not good at rebuilding countries. The author indicated that General Franks wanted to enter and leave Iraq

as soon as possible that even when he arrived in Baghdad after the fall of Saddam Hussein, he asked the military leaders under his command to begin drawing up a plan for the withdrawal of forces in thirty or sixty days.

At the same time, the Joint Chiefs of Staff was preparing its own plan for governing Iraq as military rule and took the initiative to prepare for the establishment of a military command in Iraq that would coordinate between the American agencies different issues before handing over matters to an American ambassador. And Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld modified the plan to ensure DoD control over postwar efforts. This was a clear shift, because the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been constantly responsible for rebuilding Japan and Germany immediately after World War II. However, the plan did not embrace the Americans central leadership or Rumsfeld's civilian employees.

At the same time, a third team emerged that did more planning: General David McKiernan's staff officers he was the field commander in the war, and their plan required that coalition forces support the military government or civil for two months. The author concludes by saying that whatever the plan and whatever the planning, the US military was not interested in rebuilding Iraq starting from Rumsfeld to Franks and down until the end of the chain of command, none of the military's plans contained any details, as it lacked consistency and were so poor in distribution that field commanders were

unaware of their existence.

The 3rd Infantry Division, which occupied Baghdad, issued a report after the war complaining of the loss of the mission directions, he reports states: “The senior leadership did not extend any plan to the 3rd Mechanized Infantry Division for the fourth stage”. With the escalation of the conflict between the American ministries of defense and state, the Iraqis – Americans from in Michigan, where they were warned by a State Department representative and Eric, which he was an expert in Iraqi affairs, he warned the gathering, saying: “If you deal with Paul Wolfowitz, the State Department will not give you anything.”

David Phillips commented, he is a contractor with the State Department and head of the “Iraq’s Future” Operations project, on the battle that took place between US military and civilian officials by saying: “US officials should not allow their personal feelings to poison the interagency process, regardless of their policy differences. But they did, of course, if the personal animosities, which combined with the conflicting approaches of the post-war period, will eventually lead to the elimination of the project for the future of Iraq”.

### **Hired labor:**

In another station of the book, under the title (Hired labor), the reality of American corporate greed appears in the recruitment of the cheap workers from the states KBR is the

subsidiary company of Halliburton, which specializes in the recruitment of foreign workers in Iraq, this company and its subcontractors were allowed to engage in labor smuggling and immersion in the most questionable aspects of the smuggling system, which reminds us of the numerous reports about using of physical violence with these workers, and examples are happened in other countries where a Nepalese worker dies of thirst every month in Saudi Arabia, and workers are forced to remain silence otherwise immediately they will be deported to their country.

While other companies, including Halliburton, received massive bidding contracts, by hiring a poor, desperate worker from countries like Nepal, the Philippines, etc., to increase their profit margin. The lowest salary for an American employee working for KBR is about \$60,000 as for the foreign workers who work with the same company, they receive an amount of up to \$3,000 in addition to these workers being deceived and defrauded annually, they are treated as slaves. The American refusal to clamp down on the world smuggling system and to turn Iraq into a hell.

The poor workers who flocked to Iraq with the help of the American taxpayers had no rights, they were denied the right of expression and the right to appoint lawyers, and they were mere commodities and mere cheap products that fell into the hands of the company that made the slightest offer and did not fear any sanctions from the United States.

## **The Electricity Sector File:**

Before the end of the book, the writer sheds light on the file of electrical energy, which he considers to be the first issue that the Americans had to face after they occupied Baghdad, and he confirms that electricity equal authority in Iraq; Because it was a standard used by the Iraqis to judge the American occupation, The author wonders why Saddam Hussein was able to restart the power a few months after the 1991 Gulf War, which was more devastating to the country. How then can the United States which is richer and the most powerful and technologically advanced country in the world to do the same?

Under the title (Failure), the writer tries to justify the reason for America's failure that it did not incite itself Because of the enormity of the task that awaits in Iraq despite the many indications that preceded the war, and through coalition officials were astonished when they saw the extent of the damages affecting the electricity grid although the United Nations has been documenting this problem for several years.

Projects to rebuild the electricity system in the country witnessed the succession of seven people in charge of the most complex and costly business in Iraq between April 2003 and August 2004, average of a new president and CEO every two and a half months. 2004, an average of one new CEO and president every two and a half months. Michael Gautier said:



The head of the United Nations Infrastructure Office, which is the office that has worked with the Americans on some projects, “It was so frightening that we were never able to cooperate because of the permanent change of officials. This arrangement was not effective, but rather had a devastating effect on the business,” said Michael Gauthier, head of the United Nations Office for Infrastructure, an office that worked with the Americans on some electrical projects. Continuing US and Iraqi responsibilities and senior UN staff, Gauthier said that senior advisers “would come and spend five weeks getting to know the place, then they would spend another four weeks working, and then they would spend another three weeks preparing to go home”.

And under the title (Astonishing Chaos), it refers to what was left of the looting operations that affected the Electricity wires was stolen from Iraqi power lines and sold until it caused a significant drop in scrap metal prices in all regions of the Middle East, and looting has raised the cost of restoring electricity has tripled. Description of Clifford J. Mann, CEO of Bechtel he had supervised the rebuilding work carried out by the company by saying, “It is the most astonishing kind of chaos.”

The author acknowledges that the rebuilding process is not an act of altruism and self-denial on the part of the United States. Rather, the main strategic and direct objective is to protect the lives of Americans, by calming Iraqis through making life

better and providing job opportunities for the youth and the unemployed. Providing better services will ease the belief that America invaded Iraq in order to gain its oil wealth. The importance of which elicited the full attention of the United States. In addition to the other reasons he mentions, but on the other hand, he wonders about the results achieved in this field?!

He answers, saying: After three years, the Iraqis had less electrical energy than before, and maternity hospitals suffer from a lack of electricity, and doctors are helpless in front of children as they lose their lives, families suffer from the sweltering summer heat of 130 degrees Fahrenheit. On the other hand, factories closed because there was not enough electric power to operate their machines, and the oil production deteriorated reached levels lower than they were before the war, and the explosions of oil pipelines were repeated in the north, and in the south, ships carrying oil stand empty in the port for several days, while the poor people of Iraq in the slums of Baghdad, they are vulnerable to disease attacks such as hepatitis due to the lack of pure water and health care. These are aspects of the bleak picture that the author talks about, and which he sees it arose due to the American invasion of Iraq.

### **price of war:**

Miller closes his book with “The Price of War,” by revealing the falsehood of American claims about values and the control

of the physical mentality, after the arrival of Colonel “Ted West Hosing” to his workstation in Iraq after being assigned by the Pentagon with the most important mission in Iraq, which is to lead a new type of armies: Independent security contractors who were as infantry soldiers in the reconstruction process through training Iraqi forces to take over security tasks from US forces and supervise a private security company called USIS and the accompanying case of his death by greedy contractors, or suicide. Which the writer considers it a fundamental fact of the war in Iraq, which is that it pushed him to come to a world that did not have a value – duty, honor, patriotic. Which values – the writer believes – that America has adopted in its wars, where the mentality of profit and not patriotism, or brotherhood, or faith in what they do took over the men who fought in Iraq and rebuilt it.

Through this view, we discern two basic truths in the book, the first truth: the truth of the American policy based on lies, deception and media misinformation in its invasion of Iraq, from the lie of weapons of mass destruction and their subsequent denial, to the lie of making Iraq one of the best countries in the region, and later denied by American politicians...

And the other truth: the enormous amount of corruption and the waste of huge funds in what was called reconstruction of Iraq, without the slightest moral deterrent, and without the slightest regard for the large number of victims.

From these two facts, it is clear that America was not its goal to establish democracy and prosperity in Iraq and rebuilding it, but its aim is to destroy its infrastructure and spread chaos in its areas, and this is the answer to the question which was raised by the author about the reason for the inability of the most powerful country in the world to build and reconstruction Iraq after they destroyed it by the military machine of the occupation.

## Book Identity

Title: Blood Tribute: Billions Wasted, Lives Lost, And the greed of giant corporations in Iraq

Author: T. Christian Miller is an American journalist who specializes exclusively in covering the reconstruction of Iraq.

Translator: Said Hosnia

Number of pages: 994

Publishing house: The Printing Company for Distribution and Publishing, Beirut, Lebanon

Publication year: 2010

