“A vivid, intimate, and unblinking view of the American occupation of Iraq. Larry Diamond takes us with him into Baghdad’s Green Zone for an unprecedented look at good intentions run amok. Squandered Victory offers the clearest explanation to date of how the U.S. government miscalculated the real price of victory in Iraq.”

—RICK ATKINSON

“Larry Diamond, one of America’s foremost experts on democracy, has studied the process of democracy building in dozens of countries across the globe. When offered a chance to assist in the effort to establish democracy in Iraq he did so—and was surprised and horrified by the mixture of arrogance and incompetence which characterized the American occupation. In this well-written book, Diamond explains what went wrong and why. In my view, a democratic Iraq remains a noble, important, and achievable goal. But it has been made so much more difficult and costly by America’s squandered victory.”

—FAREED ZAKARIA

“Cautiously pessimistic but also optimistically cautious regarding Iraq’s longer-range democratic potential, and unsparing in its criticism of the high-handed manner in which top U.S. officials micro-governed occupied Iraq, troublingly informative about the confused character of the U.S. occupation, Diamond’s book provides a remarkably incisive dissection of Iraq’s tortured political realities.”

—ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

“Larry Diamond combines deep academic knowledge about democratization with hands-on practical experience of our nation-building effort in Iraq, to provide a stark critique of the U.S. effort there. It is a disquieting analysis that is rich in lessons for future American foreign policy.”

—FRANCIS FukUYAMA

“Larry Diamond, a believer in a democratic Iraq, earned his skepticism about the American effort there the hard way—by trying to make it work. This is an extremely valuable insider’s account of idealism, illusion, and failure.”

—GEORGE PACKER