

# Forever Wars, Recaptured in Real Time

A New e-Book

By [Pepe Escobar](#)

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*The 21<sup>st</sup> century, geopolitically, so far has been shaped by the U.S.- engineered Forever Wars.*

*[Forever Wars: Afghanistan-Iraq, part 2](#), ranging from 2004 to 2021, is the fourth in a series of e-books recovering the Pepe Escobar archives on Asia Times.*

The archives track a period of 20 years – starting with the columns and stories published under The Roving Eye sign in the previous Asia Times Online from 2001 all the way to early 2015.

The first e-book, [Shadow Play](#), tracked the interplay between China, Russia and the U.S. between 2017-2020.

The second, [Persian Miniatures](#), tracked the Islamic Republic of Iran throughout the “axis of evil” era, the Ahmadinejad years, the nuclear deal, and “maximum pressure” imposed by the Trump administration.

Forever Wars is divided in two parts, closely tracking Afghanistan and Iraq.

[Forever Wars](#), part 1 starts one month before 9/11 in the heart of Afghanistan, and goes all the way to 2004.

[Part 2](#), edited by my Asia Times colleague Bradley Martin, starts with the Abu Ghraib scandal and the Taliban adventures in Texas and goes all the way to the “Saigon moment” and the return of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

The unifying idea behind this e-book series is quite a challenge: to recover the excitement of what is written as “the first draft of History”.

You may read the whole two-volume compilation chronologically, as a thriller, following in detail all the plot twists and cliffhangers.

Or you may read it in a self-service way, picking a date or a particular theme.

On part 1, you will find the last interview by commander Massoud in the Panjshir before he was killed two days before 9/11; the expansion of jihad as a “thermonuclear bomb”; life in “liberated” Kabul; life in Iraq in the last year under Saddam Hussein; on the trail of al-Qaeda in the Afghan badlands; who brought us the war on Iraq.

On part 2, you will revive, among other themes:

- Abu Ghraib as an American tragedy.
- Fallujah as a new Guernica.
- Iraq as the new Afghanistan.
- The myth of Talibanistan.
- The counter-insurgency absurdities in “AfPak”.
- How we all remain hostages of 9/11.
- The Pipelineistan Great Game.
- The failing surges – in both Afghanistan and Iraq.
- How was life in Talibanistan in the year 2000.
- NATO designing our future already in 2010.
- Afghanistan courted as a player in Eurasian connectivity.

And since July 7, the chronicle of the astonishing end of the 20-year-long Forever War in Afghanistan on August 15, 2021.

The majority of the articles, essays and interviews selected for this two-part e-book were written in Afghanistan and in Iraq and/or before and after multiple visits to both countries.

So welcome to a unique geopolitical road trip – depicting in detail the slings and arrows of outrageous (mis)fortune that will continue to shape the young 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Ride the snake.

[Click here to purchase the e-Book from Asia Times.](#)

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*Pepe Escobar, born in Brazil, is a correspondent and editor-at-large at Asia Times and columnist for Consortium News and Strategic Culture in Moscow. Since the mid-1980s he's lived and worked as a foreign correspondent in London, Paris, Milan, Los Angeles, Singapore, Bangkok. He has extensively covered Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia to China, Iran, Iraq and the wider Middle East. Pepe is the author of Globalistan – How the Globalized World*

*is Dissolving into Liquid War; Red Zone Blues: A Snapshot of Baghdad during the Surge. He was contributing editor to The Empire and The Crescent and Tutto in Vendita in Italy. His last two books are Empire of Chaos and 2030. Pepe is also associated with the Paris-based European Academy of Geopolitics. When not on the road he lives between Paris and Bangkok.*

*He is a frequent contributor to Global Research.*

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