



Rediscovering Irregular Warfare: Colin Gubbins and the Origins of Britain's Special Operations Executive (Campaigns and Commanders Series)

By A. R. B. Linderman



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Britain's Special Operations Executive (SOE), which conducted sabotage campaigns and supported resistance movements in Axis-occupied Europe and in Asia, is often described as Winston Churchill's brainchild. But as A. R. B. Linderman reveals in this engrossing history, the real genius behind Britain's clandestine warriors was Colin Gubbins, a British officer who forged the SOE by drawing on lessons learned in irregular conflicts around the world. Following Gubbins through operations he studied and participated in, Linderman maps the evolution of the SOE from its origins to its doctrine to its becoming a critical institution. Part biography, part intellectual and organizational history, *Rediscovering Irregular Warfare* is the first book to explore the origins of a substantial force in the Allies' victory in World War II.

Although popular history holds that Britain entered World War II with no prior knowledge of or experience with underground warfare, *Rediscovering Irregular Warfare* tells us otherwise. Linderman finds ample precedent in the clearly documented work of Gubbins and his fellow clandestine organizers. He traces Gubbins's career from 1914 through World War I and such irregular conflicts as the Allied intervention in Russia, the Irish Revolution, and conflicts in British India. To these firsthand experiences, Gubbins added the insights of colleagues who had served with him and in Iraq, as well as what he learned from the Second Anglo-Boer War, the Arab Revolt led by T. E. Lawrence, the German guerrilla war in East Africa, the revolt in Palestine between the world wars, the Spanish Civil War, and the Second Sino-Japanese War. The two booklets that Gubbins wrote based on his accumulated knowledge offered the first synthesis of British unconventional warfare doctrine: practical guides that emphasized the centrality of local populations; the collection, protection, and use of intelligence; the necessity of cooperating with conventional forces; and the use of speed, surprise, and escape in ambush operations. In 1940, when Gubbins joined the newly created SOE, the experience and know-how codified in his guides formed the basis of Britain's approach to irregular warfare.

The history of the SOE's doctrinal origins is Colin Gubbins's story. By telling that story, *Rediscovering Irregular Warfare* amplifies and clarifies our understanding of the Second World War—and of doctrines of unconventional warfare in the twentieth century.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Aaron Linderman has drawn from an impressive array of primary sources to trace the institutional development of irregular warfare in the years prior to World War II and as England deployed it against the Axis Powers during the war. By linking the development of Britain’s Special Operations Executive with the life and work of Major General Sir Colin Gubbins, Linderman shows the central role Gubbins played in the development of modern intelligence gathering and special operations. Insightful and valuable.”—**William H. Kautt**, author of *Ground Truths: British Army Operations in the Irish War of Independence and Ambushes and Armour: The Irish Rebellion, 1919–1921*

“A. R. B. Linderman has written a valuable book about Special Operations Executive (SOE) chief Colin Gubbins’s career development and pre–World War II study of irregular warfare. Linderman answers the critical question of how Gubbins tailored SOE to fight its brand of warfare, making *Rediscovering Irregular Warfare* a must-read for serious students of World War II special operations.”—**Troy J. Sacquety**, author of *The OSS in Burma: Jungle War against the Japanese* and *Behind the Japanese Lines in Burma*

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Tommy Heckman:

As people who live in the modest era should be up-date about what going on or details even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era and that is always change and progress. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which you should start with. This Rediscovering Irregular Warfare: Colin Gubbins and the Origins of Britain's Special Operations Executive (Campaigns and Commanders Series) is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Robert Hawkins:

Why? Because this Rediscovering Irregular Warfare: Colin Gubbins and the Origins of Britain's Special Operations Executive (Campaigns and Commanders Series) is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will jolt you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such amazing way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book possess such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to delay having that book? If I had been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Ramon Lopez:

The book untitled Rediscovering Irregular Warfare: Colin Gubbins and the Origins of Britain's Special Operations Executive (Campaigns and Commanders Series) contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains the woman idea with easy method. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was written by famous author. The author will take you in the new era of literary works. You can read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can start their official web-site and order it. Have a nice go through.

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