

WHY NATION-BUILDING MATTERS

Political Consolidation, Building Security Forces, and Economic Development in Failed and Fragile States

KEITH W. MINES

"This book is destined to be a classic, studied in our embassies around the world. At the same time, it's a fast-moving, engrossing read in the style of Graham Greene, with a host of characters—the noble, the cunning, the naïve, and the corrupt—pursuing goals, some idealistic, some selfish, and all elusive."—Bing West, best-selling author of *The Village* and coauthor with Jim Mattis of *Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead*

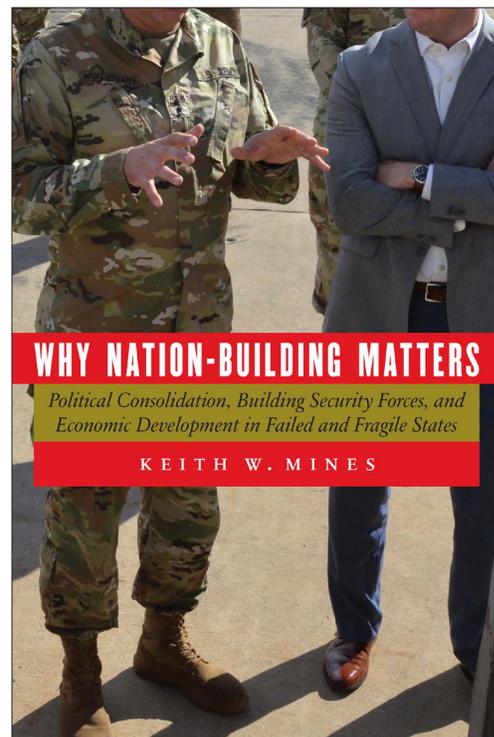
"Keith Mines has been an omnipresent figure at nearly every nation-building enterprise the United States has attempted for the past forty years. . . . Mines has established a record of unparalleled service in the world's most difficult places, recounted here with great insight and compassion."—James Dobbins, former American special envoy for Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan

No one likes nation-building. The public dismisses it. Politicians criticize it. The traditional military disdains it, and civilian agencies lack the blueprint necessary to make it work. Yet functioning states play a foundational role in international security and stability. Left unattended, ungoverned spaces can produce crises from migration to economic collapse to terrorism.

Keith W. Mines has taken part in nation-building efforts as a Special Forces officer, diplomat, occupation administrator, and United Nations official. In *Why Nation-Building Matters* he uses cases from his own career to argue that repairing failed states is a high-yield investment in our own nation's global future. Eyewitness accounts of eight projects—in Colombia, Grenada, El Salvador, Somalia, Haiti, Darfur, Afghanistan, and Iraq—inform Mines's in-depth analysis of how foreign interventions succeed and fail. Building on that analysis, he establishes a framework for nation-building in the core areas of building security forces, economic development, and political consolidation that blend soft and hard power into an effective package.

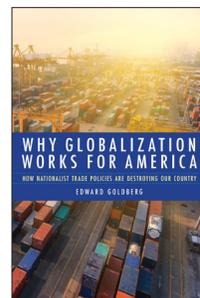
Grounded in real-world experience, *Why Nation-Building Matters* is an informed and essential guide to meeting one of the foremost challenges of our foreign policy present and future.

Keith W. Mines is an active-duty U.S. Foreign Service officer, most recently serving as the director of Andean affairs at the Department of State in Washington, DC. He has published numerous articles in the *Foreign Service Journal*, *Parameters*, *Orbis*, the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Denver Post*, and with the Foreign Policy Research Institute and the U.S. Institute of Peace.

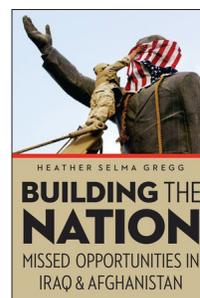


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