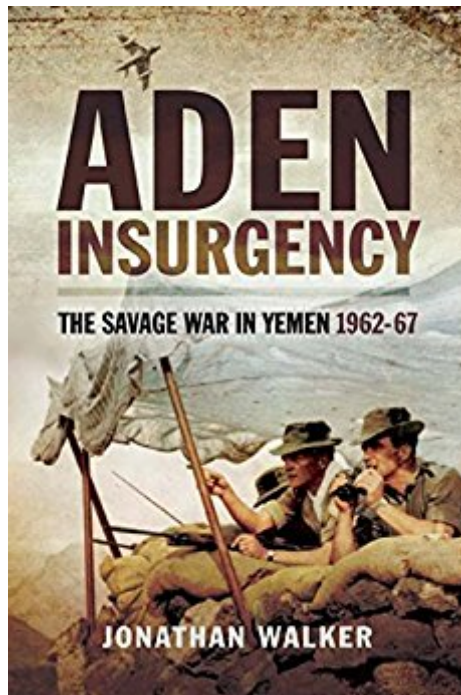




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Aden Insurgency: The Savage War In Yeman 1962-67



Synopsis

During the early 1960s the Cold War reached its climax. Britain's dwindling power in the Middle East was under siege from Arab nationalism, the Communist bloc and from American designs in the region. Aden, with its strategic military base and old Protectorate buffer zone, was soon the main battleground. The 1962 Egyptian-inspired coup in the neighbouring Kingdom of North Yemen further tightened the noose. So began a bitter and bloody insurgency war in South Arabia. British regular and special forces were soon pitted against growing and formidable insurgency forces, fighting both a war in the mountains and an urban conflict in the backstreets of Aden. Intelligence agencies vied for control of 'hearts and minds'. The British launched a clandestine war in Yemen to keep their enemies at bay. But still the situation in Aden spiralled out of control, culminating in a bloody slaughter in 1967. In that November, the British Army finally withdrew from South Arabia. Aden Insurgency is the extraordinary story of Britain's last colonial conflict. Using a wide range of recently released archive and eye-witness accounts, the author charts the collapse of the South Arabian state. Set against a background of ruthless political ambition, these events shaped the Yemen of today.

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Customer Reviews

As British influence and colonial power throughout the Middle East diminished in the 1960s, the strategic military base of Aden soon became a battle ground at the centre of a bloody war that no side could possibly win outright. Jonathan Walker is a member of the British Commission for Military History and an Honorary Research Associate at the University of Birmingham's Centre for First World War Studies who has a number of acclaimed works to his credit. He is, therefore, well qualified to write a book about Britain's last colonial conflict and, all things considered, appears to have produced a most thorough job of work. Commencing with an all-important explanation of the Kingdom of Sheba, the author steers the reader quite expertly through the cause, condition and eventual outcome of the conflict in a book containing almost 300 pages of narrative plus those equally important explanations and further detail found in the appendices at the end. Personally, I was just as pleased to find a full and frank account of that well known, though often misunderstood and misquoted, contribution made by Lt. Colonel Colin Mitchell and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders as I was to discover some of the horrific injuries and assassinations visited upon British civilian staff and their families. The text is supported with a carefully chosen and relevant selection of photographs found together in the middle of the book and, altogether, this product should please most readers for its factual accuracy and clarity of delivery.

NM British army major (retired)

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