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BOOK INFORMATION SHEET (7.24.24)

**Author (as it should appear on the book):** Scott Wallace

**Title:** *Central America in the Crosshairs of War*

**Subtitle:** *On the Road from Vietnam to Iraq*

**Contributors:** with a foreword by the Honorable Christopher J. Dodd

**Partner:** Published in association with the Center for the Study of Place

**Book pages:** 192 pages

**Number and type of illustrations:** 100 photographs by the author (57 color; 43 black-and-white), 3 historic photographs (1 color; 2 black-and-white), 5 color montages, 3 documents (2 color; 1 black-and-white), and 1 color map = 112 illustrations

**Trim size:** 11.0" x 9.5" landscape/horizontal

**List price:** \$40.00

**Discount:** Trade

**ISBN (book):** 978-1-960521-01-9

**ISBNs (electronic):** TBD

**Edition:** Hardcover

**E-book?** TBD

**Jacket:** Yes

**Edition size:** 750/1,000

**Publication date:** October 2024

**Advances due:** early September 2024

**To warehouse:** mid- to late October 2024

**Printed in:** Singapore

**Distributor:** Casemate/IPM

**Bookstore categories:** U.S. Military and Latin American History/Foreign Affairs/Journalism/Memoir

**Audience:** Anyone interested in U.S. foreign policy and military history, Latin American studies, journalism, and first-rate writing and photography.

**Selling points (list three):** The topic of U.S. involvement in Central America remains of critical importance, and this book re-addresses many of the root causes for today's crisis on the "southern border"; Wallace is an award-winning journalist known for his research, story-telling, and photography, and the book is gripping from start to finish; the book features a foreword by Christopher J. Dodd, Special Presidential Advisor on the Americas to President Joseph R. Biden, who is Connecticut's longest-serving member of Congress (from 1975 to 2011) and

who was Chairman and CEO of the Motion Picture Association from 2011 to 2018.

**Tagline:** An unforgettable account of how misguided and illegal U.S. policies in Central America during the 1980s resulted in tens of thousands of deaths, created many of today's problems along America's Southern Border, and helped perpetuate a legacy of hawkish militarism at the expense of democracy and diplomacy.

**Description of the work:**

During the 1980s, the United States financed and directed wars against popular movements in Central America. Vowing to block "Soviet expansion," the U.S. waged a Vietnam-style counterinsurgency in El Salvador while orchestrating a covert and illegal war to overthrow the Sandinista government in Nicaragua. Some 75,000 died in El Salvador, and more than 30,000 were killed in Nicaragua, most of them civilians. Countless more were displaced. Meanwhile, with tacit U.S. support, the Guatemalan military razed hundreds of Indigenous communities and killed more than 200,000 people during a civil war that claimed the lives of 100,000 Mayan villagers.

Scott Wallace arrived in Central America in 1983 to cover these conflicts as a freelance "stringer" for CBS News and *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* as well as *Newsweek*, *The Independent*, and *The Guardian*. Traveling along the frontlines of war, Wallace evolved a distinctive reporting style that included photojournalistic portraits of startling intimacy, page-turning tales of high adventure, and incisive analysis of the events he witnessed. The result is this unforgettable account of a reporter coming of age on the battlefield as he seeks the truth amid a landscape rife with death and deception.

Introduced by the Honorable Christopher J. Dodd, readers will find within these pages a compelling and eye-opening narrative and visual record of the conflicts that continue to reverberate in the crisis on America's southern border with Mexico and in policy decisions made in Washington that impact families at home and throughout the world. Situating the exercise of U.S. power on a continuum running from Vietnam through Central America to Iraq, where he later reported, Wallace provides a rare look into the real-life consequences of morally dubious policies while offering a gripping primer for aspiring foreign correspondents and field reporters.

In *Central America in the Crosshairs of War*, Scott Wallace presents a highly compelling memoir that not only reboots America's history of misadventures overseas since Vietnam, but also restores faith in the importance and power of journalism at a time when "disinformation" and "alternate realities" abound in America and abroad. As Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist Deborah Nelson observes: "Scott Wallace takes us along his harrowing journey into the Central American jungles for an important historical accounting that draws a sharp line from the U.S. proxy wars of the 1980s to today's crises in those countries and at our own southern border."

**Blurbs:**

"For anyone seeking to comprehend how the United States lurched heedlessly from its disastrous war in Vietnam on to those in Iraq and Afghanistan, *Central America in the Crosshairs of War* is a must-read. One of the most

intrepid and clear-eyed reporters to have covered the wars in Central America of the 1980s, Scott Wallace has produced an essential book, in words and pictures, offering an invaluable historical perspective.”

—Jon Lee Anderson, staff writer for *The New Yorker* and author of *The Fall of Baghdad* and *Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year

“Scott Wallace intensively documented the U.S.-supported wars that wracked Central America during the 1980s, and he deftly links them to the American ‘war on terror’ after 9/11. Writing with great lucidity and grace, Wallace also illustrates *Central America in the Crosshairs of War* with his stunning photographs. A very compelling read.”

—Peter Bergen, Professor in the School of Politics and Global Studies at Arizona State University, National Security Analyst for CNN, and author of *The Rise and Fall of Osama bin Laden* and *The Longest War: The Enduring Conflict between America and Al-Qaeda*

“Scott Wallace’s book is fantastic. Vivid, immediate, gripping, and frequently hair-raising, his ground-eye account of the cruel wars that the U.S. has inflicted and enabled on hapless victims far and near evokes history as it happened. Wallace’s reporting, intensely detailed and personal, memorializes people and the world in which they lived and died in a way no reader can ever forget.”

—Andrew Cockburn, Washington Editor of *Harper’s Magazine* and author of *The Spoils of War: Power, Profit, and the American War Machine* and *Kill Chain: The Rise of the High-Tech Assassins*

“Scott Wallace takes us along on his harrowing journey into the Central American jungles for an important historical accounting that draws a sharp line from the U.S. proxy wars of the 1980s to today’s crises in those countries and at our own southern border.”

—Deborah Nelson, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and Professor of Investigative Reporting at the University of Maryland

[We are seeking additional endorsements from the following.]

*Jeffrey L. Gould*, Distinguished Emeritus Professor of History, James H. Rudy Emeritus of History, and former Director of the Center for Latin America and Caribbean Studies at Indiana University and the author of six books, most recently *Solidarity under Siege: The Salvadoran Labor Movement, 1970–1990* (Cambridge, 2019).

*Greg Grandin*, Peter V. and C. Vann Woodward Professor of History at Yale University and author of seven books, most recently *The End of the Myth: From the Frontier to the Border Wall in the Mind of America* (Metropolitan Books, 2019), which won the Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction.

*Le Ly Hayslip*, author of *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places: A Vietnamese Woman's Journey from War to Peace* (Doubleday, 1989), which Olve Stone made into a movie, *Heaven and Earth* (1993), and *Child of War, Woman of Peace* (Doubleday, 1993).

*Lyle Rexer*, photographer/columnist/curator/art critic who teaches in the School of Visual Arts, is a contributor to *Photograph Magazine* and the author of ten books, most recently *Stephen Wilkes: Day to Night* (Taschen, 2023).

*William D. Stanley*, Professor of Political Science and current Director of the Latin American and Iberian Institute at the University of New Mexico, is the author of *Enabling Peace in Guatemala: The Story of MINUGUA* (Lynne Rienner Press, 2013).

### **About the Author:**

*Scott Wallace* is the author of the best-selling book, *The Unconquered: In Search of the Amazon's Last Uncontacted Tribes* (Crown, 2011), and a longtime contributor to *National Geographic*. From 1983 to 1989 he covered the armed conflicts in Central America for CBS News and *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, and *Newsweek*. His articles have appeared in *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Harper's*, *Interview*, *Th Nation*, *The New York Times*, *Smithsonian*, and *The Washington Post*, his photographs in *Details*, *The Economist*, *National Geographic*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *The New York Times*, *Smithsonian*, and *The Wall Street Journal* via Getty Images and the World Bank Photo Collection. His broadcast credits include CBS, CNN, FOX News, and the National Geographic Channel. He has been honored with the Explorers Club's Lowell Thomas Award for excellence in reporting from the field, and received awards from the Associated Press, Gannett Newspapers, Inter-American Press Association, Renewable Natural Resources Foundation, Society of American Travel Writers, and Society of Professional Journalists. Wallace is an associate professor of journalism at the University of Connecticut.

### **About the Contributor(s):**

*Christopher J. Dodd* was born in 1944 in Willimantic, Connecticut. He earned a B.A. in English literature from Providence College and received his J.D. from the Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville. From 1966 to 1968 he was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic, and from 1969 to 1975 he served in the U.S. Army Reserve. Dodd is Connecticut's longest-serving member of Congress, having been a member of the House of Representatives from 1975 to 1981 and then the U.S. Senate from 1981 to 2011. Upon retirement from the U.S. Senate in 2011, Senator Dodd became Chairman and CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America and, in 2018, he joined the law firm of Arnold & Porter as a Senior Counsel. Senator Dodd also served as Special Advisor on the Americas to President Joseph R. Biden. He and his wife, Jackie Clegg Dodd, have two daughters and reside in East Haddam, Connecticut.