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978-1-107-11207-0 - Humanitarian Invasion: Global Development in Cold War Afghanistan

Timothy Nunan

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Humanitarian Invasion

Global Development in Cold War Afghanistan

Humanitarian Invasion is the first book of its kind: a ground-level inside account of what development and humanitarianism meant for Afghanistan, a country touched by international aid like no other. Relying on Soviet, Western, and NGO archives, interviews with Soviet advisers and NGO workers, and Afghan sources, Timothy Nunan forges a vivid account of the impact of development on a country on the front lines of the Cold War.

Nunan argues that Afghanistan functioned as a laboratory for the future of the Third World nation-state. If, in the 1960s, Soviets, Americans, and Germans sought to make a territorial national economy for Afghanistan, then later, under Soviet military occupation, Soviet nation-builders, French and Swedish humanitarians, and Pakistani-supported guerrillas fought a transnational civil war over Afghan statehood. Covering the entire period from the Cold War to Taliban rule, *Humanitarian Invasion* signals the beginning of a new stage in the writing of international history.

Timothy Nunan is an Academy Scholar at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies. Previously, he was an Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Zentralasien-Seminar of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

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For my parents

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This book adheres to the standards of the American Library Association and the Library of Congress for transliteration from foreign languages into English. In the case of well-known personalities whose names are in widespread use in English, however, I use the more common spelling. Hence, the KGB Director and General Secretary of the USSR goes as Yuri Andropov, while the Soviet Orientalist goes as Iuriĭ Gankovskii. Unless otherwise noted in the footnotes, all translations are the author's own.

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