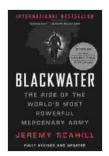
## The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army

#### **The History of Mercenary Armies**

Mercenary armies have been around for centuries. In ancient times, Greek and Roman armies often employed mercenaries to supplement their own forces. In the Middle Ages, mercenary armies were common in Europe, and they played a major role in the Hundred Years' War.



#### Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful

Mercenary Army by Jeremy Scahill

4.3 out of 5

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: 561 pages

In the modern era, mercenary armies have re-emerged as a major force in global conflict. The rise of private military companies (PMCs) in the 1990s and 2000s has led to a dramatic increase in the number of mercenaries operating around the world.

PMCs are private companies that provide military services to governments and other clients. They are often used to perform tasks that are too

dangerous or sensitive for regular military forces. PMCs have been involved in a wide range of conflicts, including the Iraq War, the Afghanistan War, and the Syrian Civil War.

#### The Organization of Mercenary Armies

Mercenary armies are typically organized into small, highly trained units. They are often equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and equipment, and they are often better trained than regular military forces.

The size and composition of mercenary armies can vary greatly. Some PMCs are small, consisting of just a few dozen operatives. Others are much larger, with thousands of employees.

Mercenary armies are often led by former military officers. These officers have extensive experience in combat and training, and they are able to command and control complex operations.

#### **The Impact of Mercenary Armies**

Mercenary armies have a significant impact on global conflict. They are often used to carry out tasks that are too dangerous or sensitive for regular military forces. This can give mercenary armies a significant advantage in combat, and it can also allow them to operate in areas where regular military forces would not be welcome.

The use of mercenary armies has also raised a number of ethical concerns. Critics argue that mercenary armies are not accountable to anyone, and that they can be used to commit human rights abuses. They also argue that the use of mercenary armies undermines the rule of law and the sovereignty of states.

Despite these concerns, the use of mercenary armies is likely to continue to grow in the future. The rise of terrorism and the spread of conflict around the world have created a growing demand for private military services. Mercenary armies are able to provide these services quickly and efficiently, and they are often cheaper than regular military forces.

#### **The Future of Mercenary Armies**

The future of mercenary armies is uncertain. Some experts believe that the use of mercenary armies will continue to grow, while others believe that they will eventually be replaced by more traditional military forces.

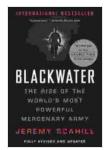
One factor that will likely influence the future of mercenary armies is the development of new technologies. Advances in artificial intelligence and robotics could make it possible to create armies of robots that are more efficient and less expensive than human mercenaries.

Another factor that will likely influence the future of mercenary armies is the changing nature of warfare. The rise of cyber warfare and asymmetric warfare could make it more difficult for mercenary armies to operate effectively.

Despite these challenges, mercenary armies are likely to remain a major force in global conflict for the foreseeable future. They offer a unique set of skills and capabilities that are in high demand in the modern world. As the world becomes more complex and dangerous, the need for mercenary armies is likely to only grow.

The rise of the world's most powerful mercenary army is a fascinating and disturbing trend. These private armies are becoming increasingly powerful

and influential, and they are playing a major role in conflicts around the world. The implications of their growing power are still unknown, but it is clear that they will have a significant impact on the future of warfare.



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