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# Bullets Not Ballots

*Success in Counterinsurgency Warfare*

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Cornell University Press

*Ithaca and London*

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First published 2021 by Cornell University Press

Printed in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Hazelton, Jacqueline L., author.

Title: Bullets not ballots : success in counterinsurgency warfare / Jacqueline L. Hazelton.

Description: Ithaca, [New York] : Cornell University Press, 2021. |

Series: Cornell studies in security affairs | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2020029368 (print) | LCCN 2020029369 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781501754784 (hardcover) | ISBN 9781501754791 (epub) |

ISBN 9781501754807 (pdf)

Subjects: LCSH: Counterinsurgency. | Government, Resistance to.

Classification: LCC U241 .H39 2021 (print) | LCC U241 (ebook) |

DDC 355.02/18—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2020029368>

LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2020029369>

Cover photograph: Smoke from a truck bomb, Baghdad, January 2007. Credit: Robert H. Reid. Used by permission.

*For my family*

There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things. Because the innovator has for enemies all those who have done well under the old conditions, and lukewarm defenders in those who may do well under the new.

—Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*