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# Bullets Not Ballots

*Success in Counterinsurgency Warfare*

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Cover photograph: Smoke from a truck bomb, Baghdad, January  
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*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*