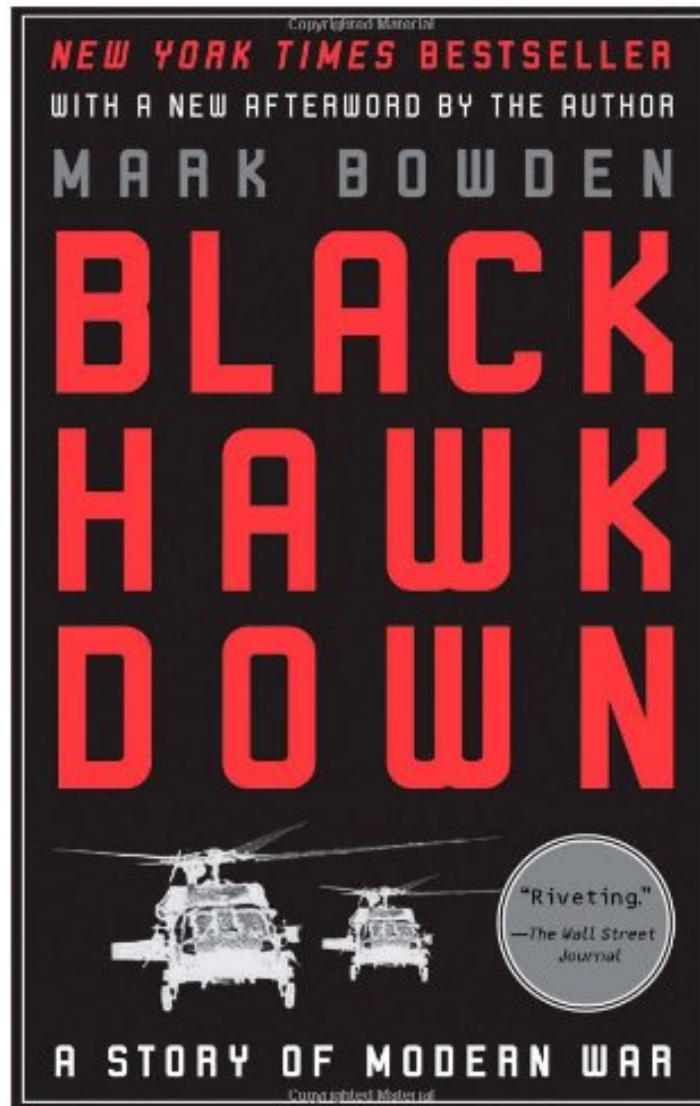


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## Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War

Mark Bowden

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#28954 in Books Mark Bowden 2010-04-13 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.30 x 1.20 x 5.50l, .80 #File Name: 080214473X400 pages Black Hawk Down A Story of Modern War | File size: 72.Mb

**Mark Bowden : Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It was riveting, and it is a true story ...By BumbleBear10It was riveting, and it is a true story. I just about couldn't stop reading it so as to get my other daily things done. It is very well written. This should be required reading for anyone in the U.S. government, about what can go wrong when the U.S. gets involved in places that can't be fixed.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Engaging and

InformativeBy D. WittI read *Black Hawk Down* with a group of four other people as a part of a literature discussion. Most, if not all, of them had seen the film already, but I had not. I had a little trouble keeping up with the many character names at the beginning of the book, but I settled in about a third of the way through. This is, of course, a violent book, made more intense because of the fact that it all really happened, and the language and subject matter of fighting men under stress is a constant. I can't imagine being in the situation in which these soldiers found themselves. Bowden also goes beyond the battlefield to look at the politics involved before, during, and after the situation: if you are interested in that subject, the material after the end of the story (author interview, etc.) is worth reading.<sup>0</sup> of 0 people found the following review helpful. Especially relevant to our pursuit of bin Laden.By mckossThe amazing story of the 1993 battle in Mogadishu, Somalia in which 18 US soldiers were killed, along with many 100's of Somali's presumed dead. This story is very relevant to the current situation (in October 2001) where we are trying to use traditional military action to capture a single person. In 1993, we were trying to apprehend "warlord" Mohamed Farrah Aidid - and today we are going after Osama bin Laden.Our critical mistake in this episode was drastically underestimating the enemy. While we had every advantage in terms of technology and military hardware, the Somali's had on their side sheer numbers of fighters as well as their determined willingness to fight regardless of the dangers to their own lives. Time and again, Somali fighters would put themselves in direct fire of the US forces to attack, usually being killed in the process. Another Somali fighter would then pick up their weapon and take their place. This went on for 12 to 18 hours in a house-to-house street battle that kept the relatively small force of Americans pinned down all night.Like the movies *Saving Private Ryan* and *Three Kings* this book depicts a very graphic image of war and battle. While I do believe that there are things we need to be willing to fight for, every one of us needs to understand the type of situation we are asking our military to go in to.

Already a classic of war reporting and now reissued as a Grove Press paperback, *Black Hawk Down* is Mark Bowden's brilliant account of the longest sustained firefight involving American troops since the Vietnam War. On October 3, 1993, about a hundred elite U.S. soldiers were dropped by helicopter into the teeming market in the heart of Mogadishu, Somalia. Their mission was to abduct two top lieutenants of a Somali warlord and return to base. It was supposed to take an hour. Instead, they found themselves pinned down through a long and terrible night fighting against thousands of heavily armed Somalis. The following morning, eighteen Americans were dead and more than seventy had been badly wounded.Drawing on interviews from both sides, army records, audiotapes, and videos (some of the material is still classified), Bowden's minute-by-minute narrative is one of the most exciting accounts of modern combat ever writtena riveting story that captures the heroism, courage, and brutality of battle.

.com Journalist Mark Bowden delivers a strikingly detailed account of the 1993 nightmare operation in Mogadishu that left 18 American soldiers dead and many more wounded. This early foreign-policy disaster for the Clinton administration led to the resignation of Secretary of Defense Les Aspin and a total troop withdrawal from Somalia. Bowden does not spend much time considering the context; instead he provides a moment-by-moment chronicle of what happened in the air and on the ground. His gritty narrative tells of how Rangers and elite Delta Force troops embarked on a mission to capture a pair of high-ranking deputies to warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid only to find themselves surrounded in a hostile African city. Their high-tech MH-60 Black Hawk helicopters had been shot down and a number of other miscues left them trapped through the night. Bowden describes Mogadishu as a place of Mad Max-like anarchy--implying strongly that there was never any peace for the supposed peacekeepers to keep. He makes full use of the defense bureaucracy's extensive paper trail--which includes official reports, investigations, and even radio transcripts--to describe the combat with great accuracy, right down to the actual dialogue. He supplements this with hundreds of his own interviews, turning *Black Hawk Down* into a completely authentic nonfiction novel, a lively page-turner that will make readers feel like they're standing beside the embattled troops. This will quickly be realized as a modern military classic. --John J. MillerFrom Publishers WeeklyThis is military writing at its breathless best. Bowden (*Bringing the Heat*) has used his journalistic skills to find and interview key participants on both sides of the October 1993 raid into the heart of Mogadishu, Somalia, a raid that quickly became the most intensive close combat Americans have engaged in since the Vietnam War. But Bowden's gripping narrative of the fighting is only a framework for an examination of the internal dynamics of America's elite forces and a critique of the philosophy of sending such high-tech units into combat with minimal support. He sees the Mogadishu engagement as a portent of a disturbing future. The soldiers' mission was to seize two lieutenants of a powerful Somali warlord. Despite all their preparation and training, the mission unraveled and they found themselves fighting ad hoc battles in ad hoc groups. Eschewing the post facto rationalization that characterizes so much military journalism, Bowden presents snapshots of the chaos at the heart of combat. On page after page, in vignette after vignette, he reminds us that war is about breaking things and killing people. In Mogadishu that day, there was no room for elaborate rules of engagement. In the end, it was a task force of unglamorous "straight-leg" infantry that saved the trapped raiders. Did the U.S. err by creating elite forces that are too small to sustain the attrition of modern combat? That's one of the key questions Bowden raises in a gripping account of combat that merits thoughtful reading by anyone concerned with the future

course of the country's military strategy and its relationship to foreign policy. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Based on a series that won the Hal Boyle Award for best foreign reporting from the Overseas Press Club after appearing in the Philadelphia Inquirer, this book details the American assault on Mogadishu, Somalia, in 1993. A 75,000-copy first printing. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.