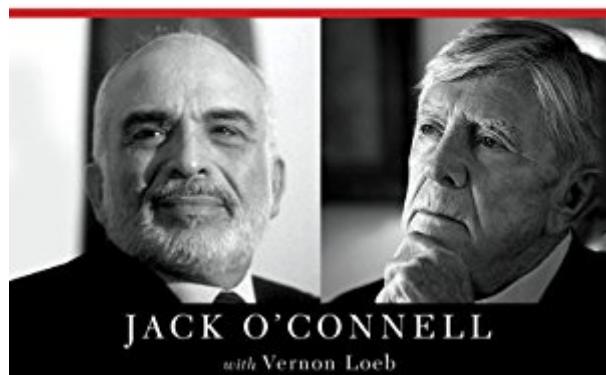


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King's Counsel: A Memoir Of War, Espionage, And Diplomacy In The Middle East

KING'S COUNSEL



Synopsis

A CIA station chief, later Jordan's lawyer in Washington, reveals the secret history of a lost peace. Jack O'Connell possessed an uncanny ability to be at the center of things. On his arrival in Jordan in 1958, he unraveled a coup aimed at the young King Hussein, who would become America's most reliable Middle East ally. Over time, their bond of trust and friendship deepened. His narrative contains secrets that will revise our understanding of the Middle East. In 1967, O'Connell tipped off Hussein that Israel would invade Egypt the next morning. Later, as Hussein's Washington counselor, O'Connell learned of Henry Kissinger's surprising role in the Yom Kippur War. The book's leitmotif is betrayal. Hussein, the Middle East's only bona fide peacemaker, wanted simply the return of the West Bank, seized in the Six-Day War. Despite American promises, the clear directive of UN Resolution 242, and the years of secret negotiations with Israel, that never happened. Hussein's dying wish was that O'Connell tell the unknown story in this book.

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Customer Reviews

A friend recently gave me a copy of "King's Counsel" by Jack O'Connell and I found it an exciting, educational read. It terms itself "a memoir of war, espionage, and diplomacy in the Middle East," but I found it to be a story of a maturing friendship. It begins by outlining the roots of modern-day Jordan. Only a few decades ago, the kingdom came into existence and since it was a fragile enterprise, it is amazing that it survived as an independent state. Jack O'Connell became a legal counsel to King Hussein when the king and the country were young. It provides an admiring depiction of the King

who became widely known as a peace-maker and as one who sees "what is possible," rather than holding onto past grievances. Oftentimes, the King's good nature and generosity were taken as weakness and other allies took advantage of him, but the story in the long-run shows the admirable vision he had for Arab unity and a new way of life for the Middle East. It is a story of what might have been. Mistakes were made by many countries throughout the past sixty years. Peace could have been achieved years ago if someone had just reached out for the outstretched arm of peace and conciliation. We would be living in a different world today where extremism never would have reared its head in the way it is doing now. Jordan's history is remarkable. It has grown from a small desert community to one of the most important places of stability and progress in the Middle East. It had a fragile existence for many years and it is now showing others that it made many correct decisions in its development. Jack O'Connell speaks warmly of Jordan and I find myself having the same amount of feelings.

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