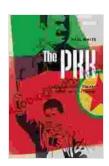
# The PKK: Coming Down From the Mountains Rebels

The PKK, or Kurdistan Workers' Party, is a militant Kurdish nationalist organization that has been fighting for an independent Kurdistan since 1978. The PKK has been designated as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States, and the European Union. However, the PKK has a long history of fighting for Kurdish rights, and it enjoys widespread support among the Kurdish population in Turkey and other parts of the Middle East.



# The PKK: Coming Down from the Mountains (Rebels)

by Charles River Editors

4.3 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2779 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 218 pages



# **History of the PKK**

The PKK was founded in 1978 by Abdullah Öcalan. Öcalan was a young Kurdish activist who had been inspired by the writings of Marxist-Leninist revolutionaries. He believed that the Kurds were an oppressed people who deserved their own independent state.

The PKK initially launched a guerrilla war against the Turkish government. The PKK's goal was to establish an independent Kurdistan in southeastern Turkey. However, the Turkish government responded with a brutal counterinsurgency campaign. The PKK was forced to retreat into the mountains of northern Iraq.

In the 1990s, the PKK began to shift its strategy. Öcalar realized that the PKK could not win a military victory against the Turkish government. He began to advocate for a negotiated settlement to the Kurdish conflict.

In 1999, Öcalan was captured by the Turkish government. He was sentenced to life in prison. However, Öcalan's capture did not end the PKK's struggle. The PKK continued to fight for Kurdish rights, and it has become increasingly active in recent years.

### The PKK Today

The PKK is today a well-organized and well-funded organization. It has an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 fighters. The PKK also has a strong political wing. The PKK's political wing is known as the Kurdistan National Congress (KNK).

The PKK's goal is still to establish an independent Kurdistan. However, the PKK is also willing to negotiate with the Turkish government. The PKK has said that it is willing to lay down its arms if the Turkish government agrees to grant the Kurds cultural and political autonomy.

#### The PKK and the United States

The United States has designated the PKK as a terrorist organization. However, the United States has also worked with the PKK in the fight

against the Islamic State (ISIS). The United States has provided the PKK with weapons and training.

The United States' relationship with the PKK is complex. The United States recognizes the PKK as a terrorist organization. However, the United States also recognizes that the PKK is a powerful force in the fight against ISIS.

#### The PKK and the Future of Kurdistan

The future of Kurdistan is uncertain. The PKK has been fighting for an independent Kurdistan for over 40 years. However, the Turkish government has resisted the PKK's demands.

The Turkish government is opposed to the creation of an independent Kurdistan. The Turkish government believes that an independent Kurdistan would threaten Turkey's territorial integrity.

The PKK is unlikely to give up its fight for an independent Kurdistan. The PKK has widespread support among the Kurdish population in Turkey and other parts of the Middle East.

The PKK is a powerful force in the fight against ISIS. The United States and other countries have worked with the PKK in the fight against ISIS.

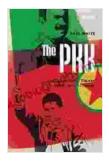
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