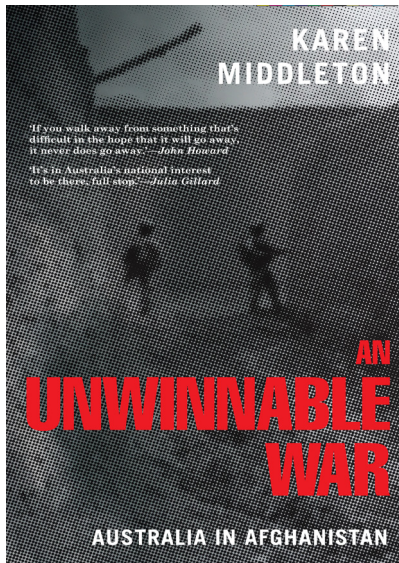


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**PUBLICATION/EMBARGO DATE**  
**05 September 2011**

Karen Middleton will be available for interview during September.

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## AN UNWINNABLE WAR Australia in Afghanistan

by Karen Middleton

*'If you walk away from something that's difficult in the hope that it will go away, it never does go away.'*  
- John Howard

*'It's in Australia's national interest to be there, full stop.'*  
- Julia Gillard

A decade on from the 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, Australians are embroiled in one of the nation's longest military conflicts—the war in Afghanistan.

*An Unwinnable War* charts the motives, negotiations and decisions that carried Australia into Afghanistan: from then Prime Minister John Howard's presence in Washington DC on September 11, 2001, to the 'transition' plan to hand security to Afghan forces—all played out against a backdrop of increasing casualties, military and civilian.

Based on interviews with key figures in Australia and abroad, *An Unwinnable War* lays bare the tensions between political and military decision-making, the nature and potency of the US alliance and the influence of individual personalities in charting Australia's course in what was once dubbed the 'good war'.

**Karen Middleton** is a political journalist with more than two decades' experience reporting on national and international affairs in print and broadcast media. A former president of the Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery and a Churchill Fellow, she is Chief Political Correspondent with SBS Television, a long-time newspaper columnist and radio commentator and a panellist on the ABC's *Insiders* program. Karen was in Washington DC on September 11, 2001, and has also reported from Afghanistan during the war.

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MUP 187 Grattan Street Carlton 3053 Australia · +613 9342 0300 · [mup-info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:mup-info@unimelb.edu.au) · [www.mup.com.au](http://www.mup.com.au)