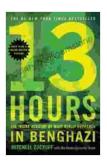
# The Inside Account Of What Really Happened In Benghazi

On September 11, 2012, a terrorist attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, killed four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador to Libya J. Christopher Stevens. The attack sparked a political firestorm, with Republicans accusing the Obama administration of mishandling the response and cover-up the truth about what happened.



### 13 Hours: The Inside Account of What Really Happened

In Benghazi by Larry Silverberg

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In the years since the attack, there have been numerous investigations into what happened in Benghazi. A special House committee investigated the attack for two years, and the FBI conducted a criminal investigation. The Obama administration also commissioned an independent review of the attack, which was led by former Ambassador Thomas Pickering and former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Admiral Mike Mullen. Despite all of these investigations, there is still no consensus on what happened in Benghazi. The House committee's report concluded that the attack was a "terrorist attack" that was "planned and executed by Islamic extremists." However, the FBI's investigation did not find any evidence that the attack was planned in advance. The Pickering-Mullen report concluded that the attack was "a spontaneous demonstration" that was "hijacked by armed extremists."

The political debate over Benghazi has continued to this day. Republicans continue to accuse the Obama administration of mishandling the response to the attack, while Democrats defend the administration's record. The attack has also become a symbol of the broader debate over U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East.

In this article, we will take a look at the inside account of what really happened in Benghazi, based on interviews with key players and firsthand accounts. We will also examine the political debate over the attack and its implications for U.S. foreign policy.

#### The Attack

The attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi began on September 11, 2012, at around 9:40 p.m. local time. A group of armed men stormed the compound, killing two security guards and setting fire to buildings. Ambassador Stevens and another State Department employee, Sean Smith, were killed in the attack.

The attack lasted for several hours, and the U.S. government did not send any reinforcements to help the Americans who were under attack. The Americans who were able to escape did so on their own. The attack was eventually stopped by Libyan security forces.

#### The Response

The Obama administration's response to the attack was widely criticized. Republicans accused the administration of mishandling the response and cover-up the truth about what happened. The administration defended its response, saying that it did everything it could to help the Americans who were under attack.

The House committee's report on the attack found that the Obama administration was "not fully prepared" for the attack and that it "failed to provide adequate security" for the Americans who were in Benghazi. The report also found that the administration "made a series of mistakes" in the aftermath of the attack, including failing to send reinforcements to help the Americans who were under attack and failing to provide accurate information about the attack to the public.

The Obama administration defended its response to the attack, saying that it did everything it could to help the Americans who were under attack. The administration said that it sent reinforcements to Benghazi as soon as it was possible and that it provided accurate information about the attack to the public.

#### The Political Debate

The attack on Benghazi has become a symbol of the broader debate over U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. Republicans have used the attack to criticize the Obama administration's handling of the region, while Democrats have defended the administration's record.

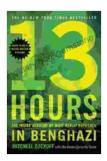
The attack has also been used to debate the issue of American intervention in the Middle East. Republicans have argued that the attack is proof that the U.S. should not intervene in the region, while Democrats have argued that the attack is proof that the U.S. must continue to intervene in the region to promote democracy and human rights.

#### The Implications

The attack on Benghazi has had a number of implications for U.S. foreign policy. The attack has led to a reevaluation of U.S. security in the Middle East, and it has also led to a debate about the future of U.S. intervention in the region.

The attack has also had a negative impact on the U.S.'s relationship with Libya. The Libyan government has been criticized for its handling of the attack, and the U.S. has suspended some of its aid to Libya.

The attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi was a tragedy that has had a number of implications for U.S. foreign policy. The attack has led to a reevaluation of U.S. security in the Middle East, a debate about the future of U.S. intervention in the region, and a negative impact on the U.S.'s relationship with Libya.



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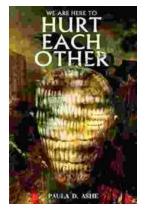
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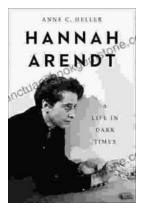
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