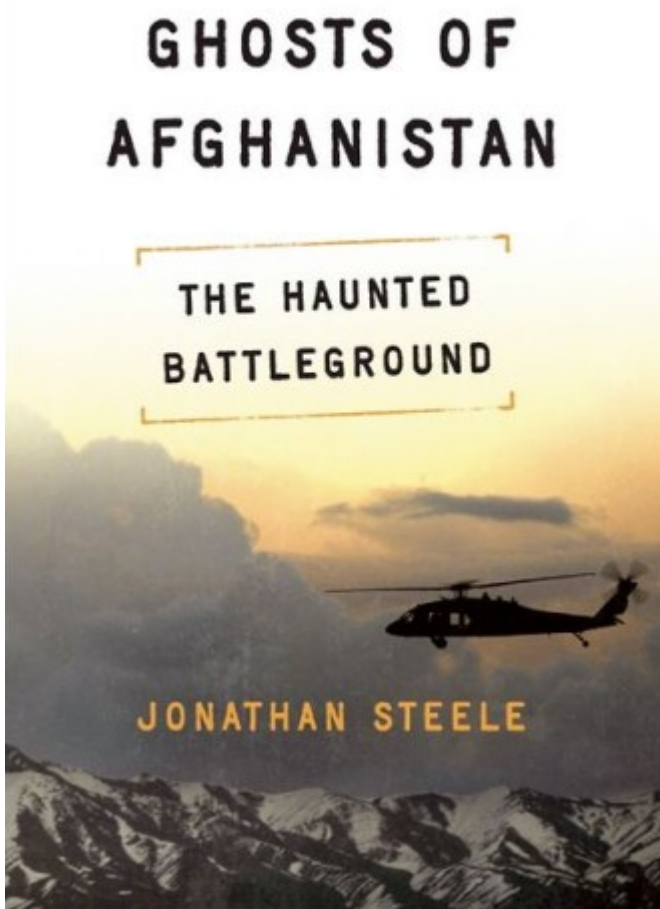


Ghosts of Afghanistan, by Jonathan Steele

Books in the [January 11, 2012](#) issue

## In Review

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### Ghosts of Afghanistan

By Jonathan Steele  
Counterpoint

Steele, a reporter and columnist for the *Guardian* newspaper, has covered Afghanistan since the former Soviet Union's occupation in the 1980s. American involvement in Afghanistan should not be compared to the Vietnam War. For parallels we should

look instead to the Soviet Union's experience there. At the heart of Steele's account are 13 myths about Afghanistan, which he debunks, including the notion that the Taliban invited al-Qaeda to seek sanctuary there.