

Inside Al Qaeda And The Taliban Beyond Bin Laden 9 11 Syed Saleem Shahzad

The methods of the US military's War on Terror have come under intense international scrutiny. But much remains unclear about realities on the ground, in those cramped cells in the midst of combat zones where terrorist suspects and interrogators come head-to-head. Now, for the first time, the inside story is uncovered by Chris Mackey, a senior US Army interrogator in Afghanistan, who interviewed thousands of Al Qaeda and Taliban suspects, many of whom went to Guantanamo Bay. In Afghanistan the interrogators faced an enemy who, with tactics like sleeper cells and suicide bombers, were unlike any other. Working round the clock, Mackey and his team had to evolve breakthrough psychological strategies and complex mind games. But the interrogators too were under immense pressure; relentlessly pitching their wits against suspected fanatics, ever fearful that their prisoners might know of another 9/11, but constrained from unleashing their tempers by the Geneva Convention, it was not always just the prisoners who cracked. The pressure-cooker atmosphere which built up under the relentless Afghan sun gives a troubling insight into the temptations in the path of sound military judgement. But it is also a testament to the strength of character of the many interrogators who remained rational and played by the rules.

"In this monograph, Dr. Jarret Brachman delves into al-Qaeda's crumbling global movement and its internal struggles, including its attempts to remain relevant in the shadow of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Brachman cites various internal writings of al-Qaeda's past and present leaders, thinkers, and supporters. It becomes clear that this once dominant terrorist organization has changed in the post-bin Laden era, is becoming fractured, and is taking a backseat to ISIL. Brachman analyzes letters, blog posts, and social media comments from various ranks within al-Qaeda that show the discontent, frustration, and confusion the once prominent terrorist organization has faced in recent years. Although struggling, al-Qaeda remains a serious threat and maintains a global footprint. But as ISIL gains more publicity, al-Qaeda has more trouble competing for followers, funding, and attention. This monograph explores al-Qaeda's recent efforts to make sense of itself."--Publisher's web site.

Islamist, Scholar, Bomb-maker... Spy

President Obama may have delivered on his campaign promise to kill Osama bin Laden, but as an Al-Qaeda strategist, bin Laden has been dead for years. This book introduces and examines the new generation of Al-Qaeda leaders who have been behind the most recent attacks. Investigative journalist Syed Saleem Shahzad dedicated his life to revealing the strategies and inner workings of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. He had access to top-level commanders in both movements, as well as within the ISI, Pakistan's intelligence service. Shahzad's work was praised by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for "bringing to light the troubles extremism poses to Pakistan's stability." Inside Al-Qaeda and the Taliban explains the wider aims of both organizations and provides an essential analysis of major terrorist incidents, including the 2008 Mumbai attacks. In May 2011, Shahzad was abducted and killed in Pakistan, days after writing an article suggesting that insiders in the Pakistani navy had colluded with Al-Qaeda in an attack on a naval air station. This book is a testament to his fearless reporting and analytical rigor. It will provide readers worldwide with invaluable insights into the new phase of the ongoing struggle against terrorism which threatens to tear apart the fragile fabric of so many countries.

The old world of spying-dead-letter boxes, microfilm cameras, an enemy reporting to the Moscow Center, and a hint of sexual blackmail-is history. The spymaster's technique has changed and the enemy has, too. He or she now frequently comes from a culture far removed from Western understanding and is part of a less well-organized group. The new enemy is

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constantly evolving and prepared to kill the innocent. In the face of this new threat, the spymasters of the world shunned human intelligence as the primary way to glean clandestine information and replaced it with an obsession that focuses on the technical methods of spying ranging from the use of high-definition satellite photography to the global interception of communications. However, this obsession with technology has failed, most spectacularly, with the devastation of the 9/11 attacks. In this searing modern history of espionage, Stephen Grey takes us from the CIA's Cold War legends, to the agents who betrayed the IRA, through to the spooks inside Al-Qaeda and ISIS. Techniques and technologies have evolved, but the old motivations for betrayal-patriotism, greed, revenge, compromise-endure. Based on years of research and interviews with hundreds of secret sources, Stephen Grey's *The New Spymasters* is an up-to-date exposé that shows how spycraft's human factor is once again being used to combat the world's deadliest enemies.

An "intelligent and fascinatingly readable" examination of Al Qaeda after the death of its longtime leader, by the renowned Arab world journalist (Pat Lancaster, editor in chief of Middle East Magazine). Osama bin Laden is dead, yet Al Qaeda remains the CIA's number one threat. Since the 9/11 attacks on the United States, and the US military's subsequent strikes, the organization has evolved into a much more complex and far-flung entity. This richly documented account of Al Qaeda moves well beyond the headlines to offer readers a deeper understanding of the organization's aims, strategies, and fortunes in a new era of conflict with the United States and the Western powers. Drawing on firsthand accounts and interviews with uniquely well-placed sources within Al Qaeda, noted journalist and expert Abdel Bari Atwan investigates the movement's new internal dynamics, how it survives financially, and how its political appeal has changed dramatically following the Arab Spring. Atwan profiles the next generation of leaders and explores both the new methods they embrace—especially on the digital battlefield—as well as the global range of their operations and local variations in Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and elsewhere. "Abdel Bari Atwan has long been one of the sharpest commentators about Al Qaeda and the Middle East."

—Peter Bergen, author of *Manhunt: The Ten-Year Search for Osama bin Laden, from 9/11 to Abbottabad* "A sobering, intensive report." —Kirkus Reviews

"The [Bush] administration has squandered the opportunity to eliminate al Qaeda....A new al Qaeda has emerged and is growing stronger, in part because of our own actions and inactions. It is in many ways a tougher opponent than the original threat we faced before September 11, and we are not doing what is necessary to make America safe from that threat." No one has more authority to make that claim than Richard Clarke, the former counterterrorism czar for both Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. The one person who knows more about Usama bin Laden and al Qaeda than anyone else in this country, he has devoted two decades of his professional life to combating terrorism. Richard Clarke served seven presidents and worked inside the White House for George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush until he resigned in March 2003. He knows, better than anyone, the hidden successes and failures of the Clinton years. He knows, better than anyone, why we failed to prevent 9/11. He knows, better than anyone, how President Bush reacted to the attack and what happened behind the scenes in the days that followed. He knows whether or not Iraq presented a terrorist threat to the United States and whether there were hidden costs to the invasion of that country. Most disturbing of all are Clarke's revelations about the Bush administration's lack of interest in al Qaeda prior to September 11. From the moment the Bush team took office and decided to retain Clarke in his post as the counterterrorism czar, Clarke tried to persuade them to take al Qaeda as seriously as had Bill Clinton. For months, he was denied the opportunity even to make his case to Bush. He encountered key officials who gave the impression that they had never heard of al Qaeda; who focused incessantly on Iraq; who even advocated long-discredited conspiracy theories about Saddam's involvement in previous attacks on the United

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States. Clarke was the nation's crisis manager on 9/11, running the Situation Room -- a scene described here for the first time -- and then watched in dismay at what followed. After ignoring existing plans to attack al Qaeda when he first took office, George Bush made disastrous decisions when he finally did pay attention. Coming from a man known as one of the hard-liners against terrorists, *Against All Enemies* is both a powerful history of our two-decades-long confrontation with terrorism and a searing indictment of the current administration.

"In *The Martyr's Oath*, Stewart Bell, Canada's most respected journalist covering terrorism, tells how Mohammed Mansour Jabarah, a teenaged Canadian, was selected by the Al Qaeda leadership to coordinate a powerful attack in Southeast Asia that would have led to more destruction than 9/11. There is no better way to understand how Western youth are being drawn to terrorism than to read this story of the rise of a new generation of terrorist." — Rohan Gunaratna, Author of *Inside Al Qaeda: Global Network of Terror* (Columbia University Press)

"*The Martyr's Oath* provides a unique vignette into the recruitment, training and operational deployment of young Canadian Muslims by Al Qaeda terrorists. It couples a biographical account of their personal and family experiences, culminating in capture, interrogation, and death, with some extraordinarily detailed accounts of counter-terrorism operations across the Middle East, Southeast Asia and North America. This will be a must-read for anyone and everyone interested in the challenges of international terrorism in our times." — Dr. Martin Rudner, Director, Canadian Centre of Intelligence and Security Studies, The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Ottawa, ON

Acclaim for Stewart Bell's first book, *Cold Terror: How Canada Nurtures and Exports Terrorism Around the World* "an arresting look at the reality of terrorism" — *The Gazette* (Montreal) Every responsible citizen of Canada, the US, the UK and other Western Countries should read this book." — Christopher Ondaatje, *Times Higher Education Supplement* "Cold Terror will shock the conscience of the nation... This book is not just an exposé it is an urgent call to action." — David Frum, Author of *The Right Man: The Surprise Presidency of George W. Bush* "The most important Canadian book of 2004." — *Western Standard*

"This study by Mr. Sean Kalic, of the Department of Military History, US Army Command and General Staff College, examines modern transnational terrorism from the 1960s to the present day, with special emphasis on the adaptation Al Qaeda and other non-state actors have taken in response to the actions of the United States and its allies. This work provides a cautionary warning about the likelihood Al Qaeda will continue to survive and execute missions in the current operating environment. [...] As the US Army continues its efforts in combating terrorists, the thoughts found in this narrative are well worth considering." — THOMAS T. SMITH, Director, Combat Studies Institute

Based on in-depth interviews with tribal Sheiks involved in the Awakening and their American military counterparts, *Confronting al Qaeda* is a study of decision-making processes and the political psychology of the Sunni Awakening in al Anbar. It traces the change in American military strategy that made the Awakening collaboration between the Sunni tribes and the U.S. forces possible. It explains how the evolution of the tribal leaders' perspective and of the American military strategy led to defeat al Qaeda in al Anbar. The process of these changing mutual images is detailed as well as how the cooperation between groups led to further evolution of perceptions. Political and military realities urgently forced these perceptual and social identity shifts initially, but the process of cooperation and engagement accelerated these shifts through increasingly

mutually beneficial cooperation and interaction during the battle with al Qaeda in Iraq.

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Maria A Ressa has been interviewed by The Wall Street Journal (High-Profile Journalist Reshapes Her Role in Terrorism Fight)The two most wanted terrorists in Southeast Asia OCo a Malaysian and a Singaporean OCo are on the run in the Philippines, but they manage to keep their friends and family updated on Facebook. Filipinos connect with al-Qaeda-linked groups in Somalia and Yemen. The black flag OCo embedded in al-Qaeda lore OCo pops up on websites and Facebook pages from around the world, including the Philippines, Indonesia, the Middle East, Afghanistan, Australia, and North Africa. The black flag is believed to herald an apocalypse that brings Islam's triumph. These are a few of the signs that define terrorism's new battleground: the Internet and social media.In this groundbreaking work of investigative journalism, Maria Ressa traces the spread of terrorism from the training camps of Afghanistan to Southeast Asia and the Philippines. Through research done at the International Center for Political Violence & Terrorism Research in Singapore and sociograms created by the CORE Lab at the Naval Postgraduate School, the book examines the social networks which spread the virulent ideology that powered terrorist attacks in the past 10 years.Many of the stories here have never been told before, including details about the 10 days during which Ressa led the crisis team in the Ces Drilon kidnapping case by the Abu Sayyaf in 2008. The book forms the powerful narrative that glues together the social networks OCo both physical and virtual OCo which spread the jihadi virus from bin Laden to Facebook.

Provides a better understanding of the threat confronting our homeland security in order to ¿disrupt, dismantle, and eventually defeat al Qaeda and its allies.¿

Sageman conducted a comprehensive survey of all the al Qaeda plots in the West, all the al Qaeda affiliate plots in the West and all the plots done ¿in the name of al Qaeda¿ in the West since the formation of al Qaeda in August 1988. The global neo-jihadi terrorist threat includes plots under the control of al Qaeda core; al Qaeda affiliates like the Algerian Groupes Islamiques Armes, Pakistani Lashkar e-Toyba, the Uzbek Islamic Jihad Union, the Pakistani Tehrik e-Taliban Pakista; and threats by autonomous groups inspired by al Qaeda like the Dutch Hofstad group. Graphs.

Inside Al-Qaeda and the TalibanBeyond bin Laden and 9/11Pluto Press
Startling and scandalous, this is an intimate insider's story of Osama bin Laden's retinue in the ten years after 9/11, a family in flight and at war. From September 11, 2001 to May 2, 2011, Osama Bin Laden evaded intelligence services and special forces units, drones and hunter killer squads. The Exile tells the extraordinary inside story of that decade through the eyes of those who witnessed it: bin Laden's four wives and many children, his deputies and military strategists, his spiritual advisor, the CIA, Pakistan's ISI, and many others who have never before told their stories. Investigative journalists Cathy Scott-Clark

and Adrian Levy gained unique access to Osama bin Laden's inner circle, and they recount the flight of Al Qaeda's forces and bin Laden's innocent family members, the gradual formation of ISIS by bin Laden's lieutenants, and bin Laden's rising paranoia and eroding control over his organization. They also reveal that the Bush White House knew the whereabouts of bin Laden's family and Al Qaeda's military and religious leaders, but rejected opportunities to capture them, pursuing war in the Persian Gulf instead, and offer insights into how Al Qaeda will attempt to regenerate itself in the coming years. While we think we know what happened in Abbottabad on May 2, 2011, we know little about the wilderness years that led to that shocking event. As authoritative in its scope and detail as it is propulsively readable, *The Exile* is a landmark work of investigation and reporting.

Examines the leadership, ideology, tactics, and finances of Al Qaeda; discusses how the organization trains fighters; and outlines the international response that will be necessary to destroy the organization.

The true story of a jihadi convert seeking redemption in “a rollicking read and a rare insider’s account of Western spying in the age of al Qaeda” (*The New York Times Book Review*). Standing over six feet tall with flaming red hair, Morten Storm was an unlikely jihadi. But after a troubled youth in his native Denmark, Storm found peace and purpose in his conversion to Islam. His absolute devotion only grew after he attended a militant madrasa in Yemen, named his son Osama, and became close friends with American-born terrorist cleric Anwar al-Awlaki. Then, after a decade of jihadi life, he not only rejected extremism—he began a quest for atonement, becoming a double agent for the CIA as well as British and Danish intelligence agencies. Agent Storm takes readers inside the fanatical jihadist mindset and into the shadows of the world’s most powerful spy agencies in an action-packed account that “reads like a screenplay for a James Bond movie written by Joel and Ethan Coen” (*The Washington Post*).

One of the most powerful Islamic militant groups in Africa, Al-Shabaab exerts Taliban-like rule over millions in Somalia and poses a growing threat to stability in the Horn of Africa. Somalis risk retaliation or death if they oppose or fail to comply with Al-Shabaab-imposed restrictions on aspects of everyday life such as clothing, media, sports, interpersonal relations, and prayer. *Inside Al-Shabaab: The Secret History of Al-Qaeda's Most Powerful Ally* recounts the rise, fall, and resurgence of this overlooked terrorist organization and provides an intimate understanding of its connections with Al-Qaeda. Drawing from interviews with former Al-Shabaab militants, including high-ranking officials, military commanders, police, and foot soldiers, authors Harun Maruf and Dan Joseph reveal the motivations of those who commit their lives to the group and its violent jihadist agenda. A wealth of sources including US diplomatic cables released by Wikileaks, letters taken from the Pakistani hideout of Osama bin Laden, case files from the prosecution of American Al-Shabaab members, emails from Hillary Clinton's tenure as secretary of state, and Al-Shabaab's own statements and

recruiting videos inform Maruf and Joseph's investigation of the United States' campaign against Al-Shabaab and how the 2006 US-backed Ethiopian invasion of Somalia gave the group the popular support it needed to radicalize ordinary citizens and become a powerful movement.

What would be the cost to the US of a nuke explosion in a city like New York? It could be in the trillions of dollars. 9/11 itself has led to America wasting trillions just in lost wars. A nuke explosion is coming. How should America prevent it? Bin Laden had a bounty of \$25 million on his head. Three people are believed to have outed him. A Pakistani polio doctor, a retired brigadier of the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and believe it or not, the then-Pakistani army chief, Ashfaq Kayani. The polio doctor rots in jail in Pakistan today. The retired ISI brigadier got his cut and moved to the US with his family under America's witness protection program. The army chief got the lion's share. Without betraying Bin Laden, upon retirement from the army, the army chief would anyway have led a lord's life in Pakistan. But he took his booty and decamped to Australia where he lives like a king. Now the head of Al Qaeda is Al Zawahiri. Zawahiri believes, rightly or wrongly, that the US has been responsible, directly or indirectly, for between five and ten million Muslims dying after 9/11. The figure of five million seems more accurate; ten million seems to be somewhat of an exaggeration. Still, Zawahiri wants revenge for even those five million deaths. He wants to nuke America. He is 68. This is his last wish before he folds his eyes, as he says. Zawahiri has been pursuing a nuclear bomb project for years. Now he's got everything in place. He was struggling to get the bomb material. The Pakistanis have deployed tactical nukes called Nasrs in the field against India. There are between 300-500 Nasrs in the field, all under the operational control of field commanders. The Pakistani army's raison d'etre is to destroy India. But it also seethes against America. After the Soviets quit Afghanistan in 1989, the Americans discarded their collaborators, the Pakistanis, like a used condom. After 9/11, Pakistan was forced to become an ally of America against the Taliban and Al Qaeda, but it did so reluctantly. The Pakistani army has practically been the foster parent of the Taliban and Al Qaeda. Now, after 9/11, the same Pakistani army was being asked to desert them. There was severe blowback in terms of Taliban terrorism in Pakistan. Pakistani army officers started hating America even more. The Pakistani ISI, a wing of the army, protected Bin Laden. Now it is protecting Zawahiri. It wants Zawahiri to prise Kashmir from India's grasp. Zawahiri has little to no interest in going after India. It is America that he wants to hurt. The ISI tells him that if you don't focus on India, we will out you. So Zawahiri has opened up a wing called Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent. There's then this constant tension between the ISI and Zawahiri. Zawahiri is shrewd. He says that he will attack both the US and India. The ISI is comfortable with that scenario. Zawahiri has got his hands on one or more of Pakistan's Nasrs. Each Nasr comes with an electronic lock called a Permissive Action Link, or PAL. The key to the lock is with the field commander. A jihadi commander or

commanders have given a PAL (or PALs) with Zawahiri. Even without the PAL, Zawahiri can cut open the Nasr to get his hands on its fissile material. Zawahiri knows how to transport the material and the other bomb parts to the US. It will be as cargo on a ship, well hidden in a consignment of say deliciously smelling mangoes. Which sniffer dog is going to be able to pick out the bomb parts? Zawahiri has trained sleeper cells in place in the US to assemble the bomb and then to blast it in a place of his choosing. Why hasn't he done this earlier? Well, the Pakistani tactical nukes are a relatively recent development. Creating sleeper cells and training them takes time. So then how to prevent the nuclear strike? The Pakistani army is a state within a state. The ISI is a state within a state within a state.

This book sets out a new analytic methodology: analysis by contrasting narratives (ACN), which states that defining an enemy and attempting to counter threats can contribute to the manifestation of that threat. Peter de Werd applies ACN to the problem the US faced in understanding and responding to the phenomenon of Al Qaeda in the 1990s. He demonstrates how this approach can fill a gap in intelligence studies by enhancing the understanding of complex intelligence problems and strengthening the practice of intelligence analysis. Adopting a reflexivist theoretical stance, the book underlines the importance of an integrated approach to interpretation and action, and of a continuous dialogue between intelligence and policy.

Based on over five years of research, Inside Al Qaeda provides the definitive story behind the rise of this small, mysterious group to the notorious organization making headlines today.

In February 1996, Mohamed Sifaoui, an Algerian-born journalist, survived a bomb attack that killed several friends and colleagues—and thirty passers-by. "That day I realized something fundamental: I absolutely had to fight the fascist ideology of the Islamists and those who supported it, so that I would never again have to leave somewhere hoping that a bomb wouldn't go off." While covering a trial in 2002 Sifaoui came into contact with members of an active Al Qaeda cell in Paris. Sifaoui invented an identity and was able to win their trust and convince the terrorists that he shared their aims. Posing as Djamel Mostaghanemi, a pro-fundamentalist journalist, Sifaoui recorded and filmed his new associates speaking with alarming frankness about how they attract new recruits to the jihad, raise funds, spread propaganda, and, most chilling, identify targets for attack. Facing the possibility of exposure all the time, Sifaoui was at great personal risk, never more so than when he penetrated deep into the organization's hierarchy and was invited to meetings in London, Al Qaeda's European nerve center. A shocking diary, Inside Al Qaeda is also a testimony to one man's display of courage in the pursuit of truth.

To most in the West, 'al-Qaeda' is seen as a byword for terror: a deadly, highly organised fanatical group masterminded by Osama bin Laden. But does this tell the whole truth? Prize-winning journalist Jason Burke has spent a decade

reporting from the heart of the Middle East and gaining unprecedented access to the world of radical Islam. Now, drawing on his frontline experience of recent events in Iraq and Afghanistan, on secret documents and astonishing interviews with intelligence officers, militants, mujahideen commanders and bin Laden's associates, he reveals the full story of al-Qaeda - and demolishes the myths that underpin the 'war on terror'. Burke demonstrates that in fact 'al-Qaeda' is merely a convenient label applied by the West to a far broader - and thus more dangerous - phenomenon of Islamic militancy, and shows how eradicating a single figure or group will do nothing to combat terrorism. Only by understanding the true, complex nature of al-Qaeda, he argues, can we address the real issues surrounding our security today.

Since the attacks of September 11th 2001 and up to and beyond Osama bin Ladin's death, al-Qaeda has come to embody the new enigmatic face of terrorism, dominating discussions of national and international security. Yet in spite of the attention it receives, conflicting assumptions about the group abound. Is al-Qaeda a rigidly structured organization, a global network of semi-independent cells, a franchise, or simply an idea whose time has come? What is meant by talk of the 'global Salafi jihad' that is confronting the West? What are the implications of bin Ladin's death? Christina Hellmich offers a critical examination of the widely-held notions regarding the origins and manifestations of al-Qaeda and the sources on which they rely, mapping the organisation's alleged transition from what began as a regional struggle against the Soviets in Afghanistan to the increasingly leaderless jihad of the post-9/11 world. Rather than just providing yet another biography of al-Qaeda, Hellmich forensically examines discrepancies between the most common explanations and to the limits of what can realistically be known. Drawing on a wide variety of sources, 'al-Qaeda: From Global Network to Local Franchise' offers a penetrating insight into an organization which, for all its notoriety, is one of the least-understood of our time.

In this monograph, Dr. Jarret Brachman delves into al-Qaeda's crumbling global movement and its internal struggles, including its attempts to remain relevant in the shadow of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Brachman cites various internal writings of al-Qaeda's past and present leaders, thinkers, and supporters. It becomes clear that this once dominant terrorist organization has changed in the post-bin Laden era, is becoming fractured, and is taking a backseat to ISIL. Brachman analyzes letters, blog posts, and social media comments from various ranks within al-Qaeda that show the discontent, frustration, and confusion the once prominent terrorist organization has faced in recent years. Although struggling, al-Qaeda remains a serious threat and maintains a global footprint. But as ISIL gains more publicity, al-Qaeda has more trouble competing for followers, funding, and attention. This monograph explores al-Qaeda's recent efforts to make sense of itself.

From Europe's burgeoning terrorist underground, to the training camps of

Afghanistan, to the radical mosques of London, this is a unique and chilling insider's story of the rise of Al Qaeda and the intelligence services that struggle to contain it. Between 1994 and 2000, Omar Nasiri worked as a secret agent for Europe's top foreign intelligence services -- including France's DGSE (Direction Gérale de la Sérítéxtéure), and Britain's MI5 and MI6. From the netherworld of Islamist cells in Belgium, to the training camps of Afghanistan, to the radical mosques of London, he risked his life to defeat the emerging global network that the West would come to know as Al Qaeda. Now, for the first time, Nasiri shares the story of his life -- a life balanced precariously between the world of Islamic jihadists and the spies who pursue them. As an Arab and a Muslim, he was able to infiltrate the rigidly controlled Afghan training camps, where he encountered men who would later be known as the most-wanted terrorists on earth, going so far as to form a sleeper cell in Europe with Al Qaeda's top recruiter in Pakistan and London's radical cleric Abu Qatada. A detailed portrait of a complex man who fought on both sides, Inside the Jihad is a terrifying, suspenseful look at an organization that continues to be a global threat.

Founded as the Soviets withdrew from Afghanistan, Al Qaeda achieved a degree of international notoriety with a series of spectacular attacks in the 1990s; however, it was the dramatic assaults on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on 9/11 that truly launched Al Qaeda onto the global stage. The attacks endowed the organization with world-historical importance and provoked an overwhelming counterattack by the United States and other western countries. Within a year of 9/11, the core of Al Qaeda had been chased out of Afghanistan and into a variety of refuges across the Muslim world. Splinter groups and franchised offshoots were active in the 2000s in countries like Pakistan, Iraq, and Yemen, but by early 2011, after more than a decade of relentless counterterrorism efforts by the United States and other Western military and intelligence services, most felt that Al Qaeda's moment had passed.

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Looking at the few who had followed him into the desert, Muhammad said, "When disaster threatens, seek refuge in Yemen"... Yemen was the last refuge.' Far from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, in an unforgiving corner of Arabia, the US and al-Qaeda are fighting a clandestine war of drones and suicide bombers. The battles began in 2006, when twenty-three men tunneled out of a maximum-security prison in Yemen's capital to their freedom. Later they were joined by a dozen men released from Guantánamo Bay. Together, they formed the core of al-Qaeda on the Arabian Peninsula – and now they and their recruits stand ready to hijack the Arab Spring, from the streets of Syria to hotspots much closer to home. In *The Last Refuge*, al-Qaeda scholar Gregory D. Johnsen charts the rise, the fall, and the ultimate resurrection of al-Qaeda in Yemen – given new life through a combustion of civil wars, Afghan refugees, and Muhammad's prophetic teachings. Johnsen brings us inside al-Qaeda's training camps and safe houses as the terrorists plot poison attacks and debate how to bring down a plane on Christmas Day. Based on years of on-the-ground interviews and never-before-translated al-Qaeda battle notes, he delivers a riveting and incisive investigation of the state of the Middle East.

Explores both the American and Arab sides of the September 11th terrorist attacks in an account of the people, ideas, events, and intelligence failures that led to the tragedies.

This book presents an inside account of two pioneering projects in London where Muslim community groups worked in partnership with police to reduce the influence of Al Qaeda-inspired terrorism. One project empowered London Muslims to remove Abu Hamza and his violent hard-core supporters from Finsbury Park Mosque, while the other project bolstered long-term efforts by London Muslims in Brixton to challenge and reduce the influence of Al Qaeda inspired violent extremists including Abu Qatada and Abdullah el-Faisal. Significantly, both projects pre-date government funded Prevent projects and differ from them in being based on partnership, trust and voluntary civic duty as opposed to payment and control. The two projects serve as exemplars for future community-based counter-terrorism projects that recognise that the hand of central government can often be counter-productive when countering the influence of Al Qaeda: not least when the UK is waging war in Muslim countries. Flagship Prevent projects and their backers reject this analysis and argue that the work of police in these projects was itself counter-productive by empowering Muslim groups they claim are extremist or radical. This book offers a comprehensive defence to these charges and concludes that success was achieved by channelling genuine and reasonable Muslim grievances about UK foreign policy in the Muslim world in ways that are familiar and acceptable to Londoners and anathema to Al Qaeda.

Despite a plethora of studies devoted to it, the current understanding of al-Qaeda and the threat it poses remains vague and ambiguous. Is al-Qaeda a rigidly structured organisation, a global network of semi-independent cells, a franchise, or simply an ideology? What role did Osama bin Laden play within the group and its terrorist campaign? What does it mean to talk about the "global Salafi-jihad" threat allegedly confronting the West? In addressing such questions many writers have sought to offer definitive answers, yet overall the truth about al-Qaeda remains elusive. This book

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moves beyond this traditional approach in order to investigate and critically assess how such answers reflect the particular epistemological frameworks within which they are produced. Its chapters explore the varied contexts within which the obscure entity labelled al-Qaeda is constituted as a comprehensible object of political, strategic, cultural, and scientific knowledge, and within which 'terrorism' is rendered an experience of quotidian life. This volume offers a much-needed critical reflection on Western ways of talking and of thinking about the frightening experience of global terrorism. In trying to know how we know al-Qaeda, it offers us an opportunity to try to know ourselves and our often hidden assumptions about legitimacy, violence, and political purpose.

Essay from the year 2007 in the subject Politics - International Politics - Topic: International Organisations, grade: 1,7, LMU Munich (Geschwister Scholl Institut für politische Wissenschaft), course: Seminar: Introduction into Terrorism Research, 16 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Speaking about terrorism in a scientific way, it is inevitable to take into account the relationship between media and terrorism. As this essay wants to outline the main characteristics of how and why the transnational terror network Al Qaeda is designing its public appearance, a brief introduction into the general discussion on terrorism and the media is given in the following. The relationship between these two actors is often described as symbiotic or even one of "considerable mutual benefit." On the one hand the mass media can profit from the coverage of terrorist attacks because they can increase their circulation or viewing figures. On the other hand, terrorists achieve the wanted attention, convey the propaganda of the deed and inflict great fear on their target group(s). If successful, they can even mobilize wider support and influence political decisions of their enemies, in the way that they contribute to the desired escalation-spiral. This connection probably led former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to the famous words 'oxygen of publicity': A comparison, which illustrates the absolute need for terrorists to be covered in the media; for them it is as important as the air they breathe. Some theorists are sharing the opinion, that terrorism only becomes what it is through the media coverage: "Without the media aspect, terrorism remains one more cause of death, one of many, and not necessarily the most important or most dangerous one." But despite the recognition of the so-called amplification effect, censorship is neither desirable nor realizable in open western societies. So it is often said, that we are here caught in a dilemma and the only thing, media can do is to weigh carefully, which incidents to show and to what extent. Furthermore they should regard it as their self-evident duty to foster the awareness of civilians and to provide a forum for reasonable discussion. This essay shall portray one of the most prominent and surely most actual terrorist groups: Al Qaeda. It will give an overview about its media strategies, but as well will not forget the propaganda management, which tries to efficiently recruit new members and foster support for the group. At first, there will be given a brief oversight and explanation of the 'metamorphosis of war', a central condition for Al Qaeda's engagement in propaganda, and how the terrorist group correlates with it.

The late 1990s saw a number of attacks against American military and governmental offices, most notably the U.S. Embassy bombings in Africa in 1998. On 11 September 2001, the scale of this conflict changed dramatically. As in 1998, the terrorist group responsible for this devastating campaign was Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda, a loose

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network of extremists, many of whom are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their cause—the promotion of a militant form of Islam and the destruction of the West. Award-winning international journalist Jane Corbin reports from an unmuzzled European perspective and her account of Operation Anaconda and the U.S. assault on Tora Bora differs greatly from the highly varnished Pentagon and State Department versions. Based on a number of trips she has made to Pakistan and Afghanistan in the wake of September 11, and on dozens of interviews with key eyewitnesses, investigators, and intelligence officers in the region, Corbin shows that al-Qaeda have not been "smoked out."

An incisive narrative history of the Islamic State, from the 2005 master plan to reestablish the Caliphate to its quest for Final Victory in 2020 Given how quickly its operations have achieved global impact, it may seem that the Islamic State materialized suddenly. In fact, al-Qaeda's operations chief, Sayf al-Adl, devised a seven-stage plan for jihadis to conquer the world by 2020 that included reestablishing the Caliphate in Syria between 2013 and 2016. Despite a massive schism between the Islamic State and al-Qaeda, al-Adl's plan has proved remarkably prescient. In summer 2014, ISIS declared itself the Caliphate after capturing Mosul, Iraq—part of stage five in al-Adl's plan. Drawing on large troves of recently declassified documents captured from the Islamic State and its predecessors, counterterrorism expert Brian Fishman tells the story of this organization's complex and largely hidden past—and what the master plan suggests about its future. Only by understanding the Islamic State's full history—and the strategy that drove it—can we understand the contradictions that may ultimately tear it apart.

A Pulitzer Prize-winning intelligence reporter presents a narrative account of a mysterious Jordanian agent that describes how he infiltrated both al-Qaeda and the CIA before killing himself and seven CIA operatives in a suicide bombing, an event that revealed sobering agency weaknesses. Reprint.

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