



Journey of the Jihadist: Inside Muslim Militancy

Fawaz A. Gerges

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Renowned Middle Eastern expert Fawaz A. Gerges takes us into the mind-set of the jihadi—or holy warrior—that lies behind so many headlines yet remains nearly impenetrable to us. Using his firsthand knowledge of the "Arab street," he brings to life the stories of Kamal al-Said Habib, a founder of the Jihadist Movement, as well as dozens of other Islamic fundamentalists, as they struggle with the battle being waged for the soul of Islam.

Journey of the Jihadist puts a human face to events of the last thirty years—from the civil war in Lebanon to the war in Iraq to the conflict in Lebanon today. This important work, now with a new afterword addressing the rise of Hezbollah, will join the ranks of those by Thomas L. Friedman, Fareed Zakaria, and Bernard Lewis.

Journey of the Jihadist: Inside Muslim Militancy Details

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From Reader Review Journey of the Jihadist: Inside Muslim Militancy for online ebook

Eleanore says

There is very little in this book that isn't almost entirely undermined by the total moral relativism of its author. It is clear that the author isn't certain what he considers right and wrong, even at a very basic level, making him a particularly dangerous guide to this subject, which is as morally and spiritually complex as it is politically and historically. There is some value, however, in his interviews with the Egyptian jihadists and his analysis of primary sources that aren't currently translated into english.

C says

A pretty good primer on all things modern jihadism, covers the breadth of late 20th c. to current events and the development of jihad across the various Muslim ethnicities and cultures. Certainly reminds the reader that there are a lot of complexities, internal dynamics and even significant disagreements throughout the various groups and movements.

Pam says

Islamic militancy has a long history and lots of flavors. Complicated power struggles. Hatred of the US re Israel/Palestine. Idealistic holy warriors. I need to read it again to fully understand it all.

Mary Gail O'Dea says

This is an excellent book about the development of jihadism in the Middle East. I adds history and background to the "why" of jihadists -- what do they want, what do they need, how can we reach them? Very well written.

Jim says

Very well-written, very nuanced. A great deal of this book was a surprise to me--I hadn't realized the range of opinion that existed within the jihadist world. I wish the Bush administration had had this level of understanding.

Nuzhat says

While the same names come up in the creation of al Qaeda that I read in Looming Towers, this author gives

a broader middle east perspective in how messed up the US's relationship is with the Muslim world. It is a few old now, but the problems continue and are exacerbated by the continuation of Guantanamo Bay Prison Camp and drone strikes. He sums it up nicely in the afterword that even the future of Islam is being fought over by the various regions of where Muslims live- Arabia, Pakistan, Indonesia, etc. Which one's version will reign supreme?

Armour Craig says

Very informative book about the history of Islam and the journey to religious enlightenment that Muslims undertake.

This book provides a lot of detail about the differences between Sunni and Shi'ia Islam, when and how the division began, and why it is still a problem today.

Finally, it examines what exactly a Jihadist is, and how they can become ultra-radical and violent out of a peaceful religion.

Extremely interesting and informative book.

Mike says

Great book. Just reinforced my opinion that (militant) Islam is the greatest threat the civilized world faces today. Yes, Gerges comes across as ambivalent about his subject, that is, he doesn't render an opinion good or bad about his particular jihadists.

Robert Garcia says

Very insight full and eye opening. A very good read

1.1 says

Interesting, informative, well written... the holy trinity of non-fiction, plus it's well-researched, essentially unbiased, and won't put you to sleep. It is more a broad overview than an exhausting resource, which is fine with me, but it touches on all the important facets of the modern jihad, mentioning many of the most influential events, thinkers and doers as well as their reception by mainstream Islam. If you feel you may be ignorant about this rather touchy subject and want to learn more without getting overwhelmed, then this book will prove worthwhile for you. I learned at least several things, for which I am thankful.

Katy says

The book wandered too much for me and Gerges, while claiming no particular viewpoint, fails to make a lasting impression. There are far better books to learn about the "journey of the jihadist."

Rocky says

Just re-read this one in light of the Boston Bombing...even better this time, and oddly illuminating.

Kim says

Everyone needs to read this book. It helps open conversation and all things begin when we talk. This will go nicely with our Muslim Journeys bookshelf!

Shannon says

The author gained the trust of some very, very dangerous and key people in mujahedeen movements from North Africa to Afghanistan, and relates their beliefs and behavior, using a combination of their own words and documents among other things. It's very well done and I think it would be important for Westerners to read to understand the motivations for their desperate acts. Note that understanding is not to be confused with condoning. This combined with "After the Prophet" was a good pair of books.

Shaun says

Well I made it about eighty pages through this book, and can't stomach any more. It is entirely pro-Islamist, constantly excusing and justifying Islamic radicalism and blaming Christians, Jews, Israel and the United States. I can't say I've ever done this with any other book, but this one went in the trash.
