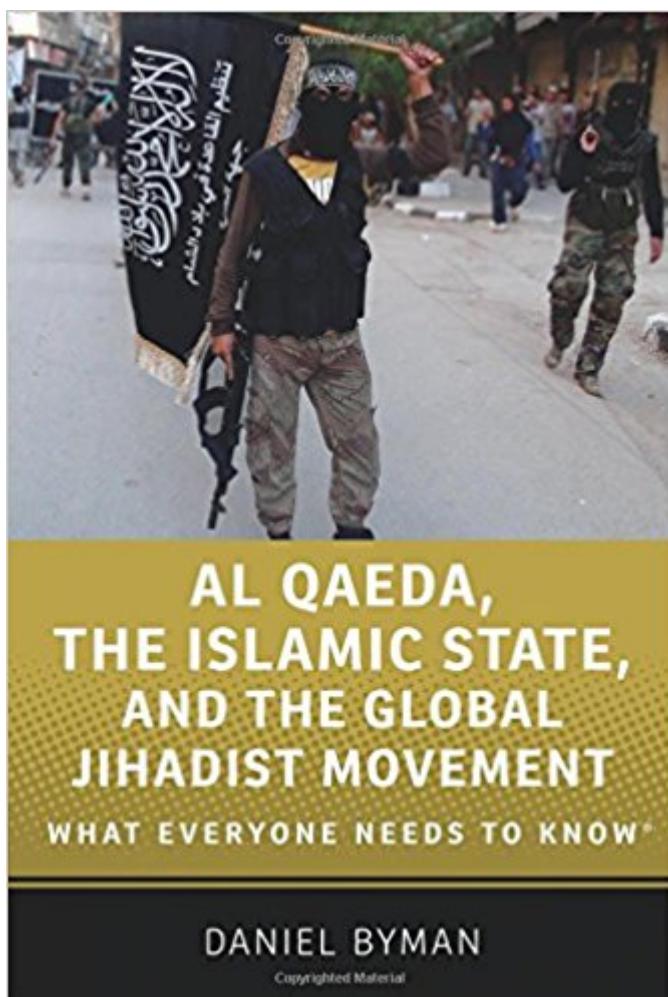


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# Al Qaeda, The Islamic State, And The Global Jihadist Movement: What Everyone Needs To Know®



## Synopsis

On the morning of September 11, 2001, the entire world was introduced to Al Qaeda and its enigmatic leader, Osama bin Laden. But the organization that changed the face of terrorism forever and unleashed a whirlwind of counterterrorism activity and two major wars had been on the scene long before that eventful morning. In *Al Qaeda, the Islamic State, and the Global Jihadist Movement: What Everyone Needs to Know*, Daniel L. Byman, an eminent scholar of Middle East terrorism and international security who served on the 9/11 Commission, provides a sharp and concise overview of Al Qaeda, from its humble origins in the mountains of Afghanistan to the present, explaining its perseverance and adaptation since 9/11 and the limits of U.S. and allied counterterrorism efforts. The organization that would come to be known as Al Qaeda traces its roots to the anti-Soviet jihad in Afghanistan in the 1980s. 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. With the death of Osama bin Laden in May of that year, many predicted that Al Qaeda was in its death throes. Shockingly, Al Qaeda has staged a remarkable comeback in the last few years. In almost every conflict in the Muslim world, from portions of the Xanjiang region in northwest China to the African subcontinent, Al Qaeda franchises or like-minded groups have played a role. Al Qaeda's extreme Salafist ideology continues to appeal to radicalized Sunni Muslims throughout the world, and it has successfully altered its organizational structure so that it can both weather America's enduring full-spectrum assault and tailor its message to specific audiences. Authoritative and highly readable, Byman's account offers readers insightful and penetrating answers to the fundamental questions about Al Qaeda: who they are, where they came from, where they're going-and, perhaps most critically-what we can do about it. *What Everyone Needs to Know*® is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Accessible and helpful for those who are new to the subject or would like more background on this terrorist organization." --Library Journal "[A] good starter for students at many levels interested in gaining a basic understanding of militant Islam" --CHOICE "Invaluable." --The Boston Globe

Daniel Byman is a Professor in the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a Senior Fellow in the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. He is also the author of *A High Price: The Triumphs and Failures of Israeli Counterterrorism*.

I enjoyed the book. The book reads as a list of questions and answers. The answers are very well written and detailed. The book ranges from very basic questions about the groups that your Grandma might ask across the dinner table to more in-depth conversations from those who are knowledgeable on the subject. Readers who want to understand more about the primary actors in modern extremist movements can read the book straight through or bounce around to whatever questions pique their curiosity.

Daniel Byman has collected an impressive amount of intelligence on our enemy, the Jihadist. He

lays out a clear picture to the cause and tactics of radicals who use Islam as an excuse to commit mayhem. I highly recommend this work for anyone wanting to understand one of the worst threats to global security in this century.

Very easy read with lots of insightful information. A great place to start if interested in these transnational terrorist groups.

Excellent reference book pertaining to the current terrorist groups and jihadist movement.

eye opening, easy to read, highly informative. draws scary parallels to things going on in our country

Great book, with facts to back it up.

Excellent book--well written, concise, and clear. Byman makes sense of the maze of conflicts exploding in the Middle East today. He describes the origins of brutal groups such as Al Qaeda and ISIS, how they organize themselves, when they are successful and when they fail, and what can and cannot be done to eliminate the menace. The book sheds light on one of the most complex and challenging problems of the 21st century.

Rich in very pertinent and substantiated information for anyone interested in the history and current state of radical Islam and jihadi terrorism for those new to the subject or well versed in it alike.

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