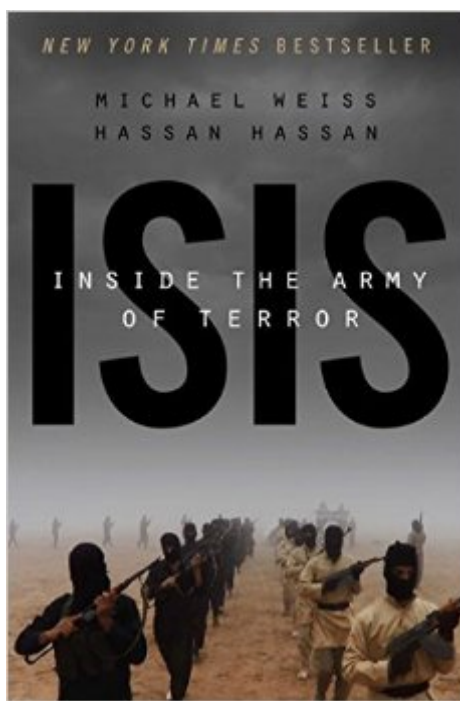


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ISIS: Inside The Army Of Terror



Synopsis

A revelatory look inside the world's most dangerous terrorist group. With brutal attacks across the world—Paris, Beirut, Egypt, Turkey—the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has proved itself the greatest threat today. They have conquered massive territories in Syria and Iraq in a bid to create a new Muslim caliphate under the strict dictates of Sharia law. In *ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror*, American journalist Michael Weiss and Syrian analyst Hassan Hassan explain how these violent extremists evolved from a nearly defeated Iraqi insurgent group into a jihadi army of international volunteers who, with slickly produced murder videos, are spreading violence and mayhem across the globe. Beginning with the early days of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the founder of ISIS's first incarnation, Weiss and Hassan explain who the key players are—from their leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi to the former Saddam Baathists in their ranks—where they come from, how they have attracted both local and global support, and how they operate—from their social media strategy to their illicit oil revenues. Political and military maneuvering by the United States, Iraq, Iran, and Syria have fueled ISIS's explosive expansion. Drawing on original interviews with former US military officials and current ISIS fighters, the authors also reveal the internecine struggles within the movement itself, as well as ISIS's bloody hatred of Shiite Muslims, which is generating another sectarian war in the region. A new generation of terror has dawned in the world and to understand how to stop it, we must understand who they are.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Casually perusing through books on , I noticed a New York Times Bestseller with a scary, and yet

very appealing, cover of the ISIS Army coming from both sides to get us. The thought that instantly came to my mind was the magnum opus of ISIS – “Inside the Army of Terror”. I had to buy this book. I had to read it. The book attempted to answer a few questions, “Where did ISIS come from?” and “Seven months into its concerted multinational air campaign, backed by the provision of arms to selected allies and proxies, is it winning or losing?”

• ISIS Inside the army of terror

It seems the book was written before the ISIS crisis in Iraq and that it was continually updated as time went on. This made the book seem too contrived as it was based on initial ideas and themes that continued to evolve. A large portion of the timeline of the book covers the time period when the American Army was present in Iraq, leaving out the part of the book covering the list of terrorists and their group’s biography, stories, and fratricidal bloodshed. The Arabic names and words used made the book sound bombastic. It is very easy to know the list of terrorist groups operating in any country. There is no need to emphasize, even proclaim, that an intense effort took place to “draw” on dozens of original interviews conducted with former US military intelligence and counterterrorism officials and Western diplomats. Wikipedia and Google could have provided me with that information just as well. The book is partial in its judgment, and the authors do little of explaining the geopolitical tension between countries that led to the rise of this “Army of Terror”.

With the recent announcement by Russia that they will be performing airstrikes against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, the world is seeing the newest combatant in a struggle that has its origins in events from decades prior. While the Islamic State first burst onto the scene in 2014 from seemingly nowhere, the terror group actually has its origins in a shifting coalition of Islamic militants who have been waiting all their lives for this moment. For the first time since the fall of Afghanistan’s Taliban regime in late 2001, an Islamic terrorist group has such control over a region that it could be regarded as a government. Borrowing heavily from prior journalism efforts, this book by Michael Weiss and Hassan Hassan performs an excellent job chronicling the rise of the Islamic State. Although he probably now seems like a distant memory, the closest thing the Islamic State has to a direct ancestor was the terrorist network of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. al-Zarqawi was a Jordanian who arrived too late to fight against the Soviets in the late 1980s, so he instead sought to overthrow those regimes throughout the Arab world that he viewed as apostates. His opportunity to shine came with the American invasion of Iraq. Although the motivations behind what drove the invasion have been part of an emotional debate, virtually no one contests that the dissolution of the Iraqi military and removal from office of most Ba’athist civil servants was a mistake. With these

decisions, hundreds of thousands of men were suddenly unemployed and very angry. These men would become an important group once the Islamic State began to make its name. Before Islamic State, however, al-Zarqawi sought to establish a reign of terror with suicide bombings and beheadings throughout the country.

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