



AL QAEDA, THE ISLAMIC STATE, AND THE GLOBAL JIHADIST MOVEMENT

What Everyone Needs to Know

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Al Qaeda became a household name on September 11, 2001, but the organization that changed the face of terrorism and unleashed a whirlwind of conflict and chaos 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 Byman presents a concise overview of Al Qaeda’s trajectory: its humble origins

in Afghanistan, its indecisive early years, its explosive transformation into a global brand and ideology, and its gradual decline and potential usurpation by rivals.

Drawing on his long career studying counter-terrorism and Middle East security issues, Daniel Byman provides unparalleled insight into the inner workings of this complex organization – the ideas and experience that shaped its leaders, the groups and individuals inspired by its virulent ideology, and the strategies that the US and other countries have pursued to confront it.

Al Qaeda today is not the same movement it was on 9/11. Within a year of those fateful attacks, its sanctuary was destroyed, its ranks decimated and its leaders were on the run from the global manhunt launched by the US and its allies. But the organization proved resilient. Despite suffering through a decade of relentless counter-terrorism efforts and the death of its charismatic leader, Al Qaeda and the groups that it spawned in Iraq, Yemen, and elsewhere remain a potent force, exploiting chaos and sowing mayhem. In 2014, one such group – the Islamic State – broke away from Al-Qaeda, conquering swaths of territory and dwarfing its predecessor in both brutality and popularity.

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 are going –and, perhaps most critically-what we can do about it.