

PREFACE

The dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dreams with open eyes, to make it possible.

T. E. Lawrence, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*

OUR MOTIVATION for writing this book grew out of our desire to understand the inherent complexity of Islamic radicalism and the global jihad. In the years after the catastrophic September 11 attacks, what was once an obscure movement on the other side of the world has become the subject of unprecedented attention: the average bookstore is filled with studies of terrorism, television shows—both fictional ones like *24*, and nonfiction documentaries—have attracted large audiences, and words such as *jihad* have quickly entered into common usage. Unfortunately, far too often emotion rather than careful analysis has led to an oversimplification of the capabilities, motivations, and intentions of our adversaries. In the case of al-Qa’ida and its jihadist contemporaries, emotional reactions to them often result in mistakenly viewing what is in fact a diverse movement with a persistent ideology as a single, monolithic entity. To see our adversaries in this way is a disservice and a hindrance in combating their vision of intolerance, extremism, and terror.

Instead, in this volume, we seek to analyze systematically the actions and statements of the jihadists in order to understand their doctrines, strategies, and tactics. In essence, we have attempted to engage in rigorous and dispassionate analysis of the jihadist movement. We recognize that far too many experts on terrorism draw sweeping generalizations based on selectively assembling isolated facts to advocate a priori positions. We also recognize that possessing Arabic language skills is not synonymous with being a terrorism expert. In the chapters that follow, we have made a conscious effort to avoid falling prey to either pitfall in order to link together understanding of the language and knowledge about terrorism. Our analysis of terrorism and the global jihad is evidence-based and grounded in the application of the scientific method. That is, we systematically examine the doctrine, strategy, and tactics of the jihadists, especially al-Qa’ida, in order to draw conclusions. We draw heavily on our own experiences with terrorism, counterinsurgency, and intelligence. In

doing the research for this book, we made the deliberate choice to rely exclusively on public sources so that our readers can have ready access to the information that we have examined in writing this book.

With this in mind, we began to piece together the ideology, strategy, and tactics of jihadists, with special attention to their primary driver, al-Qa'ida. We want to present a panorama of the differing ideas, goals, and vulnerabilities of the movement. Our book, therefore, is the result of an ongoing intellectual journey that has included spirited discussions among the authors as well as with colleagues who have contributed to crystallizing our perspectives and interpretations. We hope that this study will contribute to the understanding of Islamic terrorism and prospects for counterterrorism. Our goal is to provide the reader with a basic understanding of the jihadist movement's common philosophical foundations and underlying beliefs, its diverse strategies and tactics, and the dynamics of recruitment to the jihad. The book also offers insights into trends in the ongoing evolution of the jihadist movement and ways to exploit its potential vulnerabilities.

The transliteration of Arabic into Romanized script is always a difficult undertaking. Because there is no universally accepted standard in the West for transliterating Arabic words and names into English, we have tried to use a phonetic system that accurately approximates the original sound of the Arabic word, yet is simple enough for nonspeakers to recognize and repeat. We also have used several of the "accepted" spellings of names and terms where it made sense. Hence, our use of Arabic terms and names may not mirror what others have used, accounting for the various spellings of al-Qa'ida, Usama, and other names or terms quoted from the works of other authors. Naturally, we are responsible for any inconsistencies or inaccuracies in our Romanization and translation of Arabic.

Our work on this book benefited greatly from the collegial and supportive environment of the Center for Biosecurity Research at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Portions of this material build on prior research we conducted that was sponsored by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the Air Force Research Laboratory under Cooperative Agreement FA8650-05-2-6523. We submitted the manuscript to the CIA's Publication Review Board (PRB) for review to ensure that active intelligence sources and methods are not compromised. The PRB completed its review to ensure that we do not reveal sensitive material previously unavailable in open sources. For the sake of readability, we have

chosen not to black out any excised portions of the text or endnotes to indicate material redacted by the PRB. In no instance does redacting material compromise our analysis or limit readers' ability to weigh the intellectual merits of our arguments. As authors, we accept full responsibility for the views and conclusions contained in this book. They should not be interpreted as necessarily representing the official policies or endorsements, either expressed or implied, of the CIA, DTRA, AFRL/HE, or the U.S. government.

Don Jacobs, our editor at Georgetown University Press, deserves special thanks. He has been an enthusiastic partner whose helpful comments have guided us well in completing this book. We also appreciate the assistance provided by other press staff to ensure that our book moved smoothly through the publishing process. The anonymous reviewers for Georgetown deserve mention for their critical feedback and useful advice. Naturally, any remaining errors or faults are ours alone.

Special thanks are due to those individuals who provided encouragement throughout the process of researching and writing this book. They graciously endured our preoccupation with this project since its inception. Their patience and support has been invaluable! Devin would like to express profound gratitude to his family. Larry and Dave express special thanks to their wives, Leslie and Ruth, and to their children.

Devin R. Springer
James L. Regens
David N. Edger