

## BOOK REVIEW

***Origins of Terrorism: The Rise of the World's Most Formidable Terrorist Groups***, by Godfrey Garner and Maeghin Alarid-Hughes, published by CRC Press, 2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4RN, ISBN: 978-0-367-77186-7 (pbk)

In Afghanistan, the Taliban's "success" over western forces is expected to herald in a new era of terrorism and militancy in the Middle East and Central Asia. The biggest threats could come from Al-Qaeda and Islamic State (IS). The Taliban, Islamic State, and Al-Qaeda are three groups formed on the same ideological basis, even though their goals and objectives differ from each other. Al-Qaeda is one of them; an extremist organization that is not bound by national borders and aspires to spread its network outside them. IS has the same goal and dream of establishing a caliphate. However, IS wants to establish a caliphate now, but Al-Qaeda thinks that time has not yet come. They think that Jihadi communities and Muslim societies are not yet formed, and that establishing a caliphate is not a priority for them. But the opponent of both Al-Qaeda and the Taliban is the IS. The Taliban, on the other hand, wants to limit its activities to Afghanistan. However, the Taliban maintains strong relations with Al-Qaeda. In Afghanistan, the Haqqani network is tied to IS and has close ties to the Taliban.

The Taliban have now seized control of Afghanistan as a result of this equation. Jihadi groups all over the world have welcomed the armed group's return to power. Following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, there are fears of a new terrorism problem. In this context, the book *Origins of Terrorism: The Rise of the Most Formidable Terrorist Group* was published. It was co-authored by Godfrey Garner and Maeghin Alarid-Hughes, who worked together to make it a helpful resource for geopolitical aficionados, journalists, researchers, and others.

This book mostly covers terrorism, counterterrorism, law enforcement, security management, and crime prevention. The book is divided into eleven chapters that focus on the origins and history of Islamic terrorism. The history-based book delves into the lives of some of the most prominent leaders in the world's most dangerous terrorist organizations. The book also details the use of terrorism, what and why terrorists target and how they operate.

The two authors described in their writings how the operations (e.g., the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan) of Russia and Western powers, especially the United States (e.g., the 2003 attack on Iraq), have formed the basis of several terrorist groups. These include Al Qaeda, IS, the Taliban and Boko Haram. The book details how they began, who the major organizers were, and how these individuals collaborated or did not collaborate. The book outlines the roles of the terrorist groups' founders, as well as their personal lives and relationships with other

terrorist organization founders. The book contains a treasure of information regarding Osama bin Laden and Musab Al-Zarqabi (also known as Ahmad Al-Khalaileh). These two were the founders of Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI). After Zarkabi's death in 2006, AQI was established as an integrated organization which is named as Islamic State in Iraq (ISI).

“Insurgency Religion and Terrorist Relationships” is the title of the book's first chapter. Rebellion, according to the authors, is a movement that arises when a group of people are dissatisfied with their country's government and wish to overthrow it, i.e., when change is desired. All the terrorist group's efforts are aimed at bringing about change, and insurgency is the process of bringing about the most change. A successful insurrection can be seen in the Vietnam War. The insurrection in Vietnam ended just before the North and the South Vietnam joined in 1965, killing millions of people; yet again, a successful revolt can lead to despair. In a nutshell, rebellion is an act of defiance against an existing regime. It is managed by a group of people known as rebels. A revolt begins as a result of discontent with a country's current government. This dissatisfaction grows until it becomes a source of resistance. This opposition might be peaceful or violent, but most uprisings start out as nonviolent protests.

The second chapter of the book is titled “Terror Mind Manipulation.” It is mentioned that terrorism and acts of terrorism are carried out for two purposes. One is a political issue, while the other is a religious one. A campaign to combat politically motivated terrorism is significantly easier to carry out or defeat. Terrorist attacks are intended to cause panic and confusion. And it is through these works that “brainwashing” takes place. As a result, conventional contemplative beliefs, social attitudes, and destructive behaviours all start to feel “wonderful.”

The two authors opined that people are weakened by the lethal functional combination of disorder and confusion. Terrorist organizations frequently strive to generate chaos and uncertainty in a situation because they have the best possibility of succeeding in this atmosphere. They do, however, look for opportunities where turmoil and uncertainty are naturally prevalent, such as in Syria's civil war.

“Terrorist Landscape: Lying a Foundation” is the title of the third chapter. “Most of the Islamist movements that give rise to terrorist organizations have their ideological foundations in Saudi Arabia,” the two authors wrote in that chapter. The authors on that chapter pointed out that certain Islamist groups want to establish Islamic law by using terrorism as a tool. Most religious and devout Muslims, on the other hand, are moderates. They do not believe that there is any Islamic restriction against universal education. All these individuals and their ideologies are not well received by hard-line Islamists, Wahhabis and Salafists and they have different view

on this issue. They feel comfortable with women's indoor work and husband service, child-birth and rearing.

"How bin Laden Rose to Fame: A Historical Perspective" is the title of the fourth chapter. Understanding Wahhabism is necessary in order to comprehend the type of extremism that exists in the world of Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda base, Musab al-Zarqawi and Zawahiri. Again, understanding Wahhabism requires knowledge of its origins and growth. In that chapter, the authors argued that understanding the early history of the Middle East can help us realize how difficult life was in that region of the world at that time. The majority of the tribes had a longstanding history of conflict. Among all that existed, family feuds were the primary priority. Violence was prevalent, and it was often necessary for survival. The formation of Sunni and Shia beliefs had the largest impact on the growth of Islam and the rise of many terrorist groups that followed.

The writers argued that leadership of human groups, whether nomads or permanent residents, was essential in the past and that there are still numerous tribal people in Arab. Most of the time, a typical leader was chosen for his wisdom, experience, or richness. Bin Laden may have made a fortune doing business with the West in the early part of his life, but he later carried out violent bombings against Western countries, including the United States while using provocative rhetoric.

"A Closer Look at bin Laden" is the title of the fifth chapter. The chapter explains what Osama bin Laden, the originator of Al Qaeda and a global terror threat, was attempting to emulate. After the Prophet Muhammad (Sm) died, Abu Bakr Siddiq became the first caliph of Islam and commanded the Muslims. The authors also stated that an Islamic extremist is not different from any other religious extremist. According to the source of Wahabi philosophy, Muhammad Ibn Abdul Wahhab broke away from the mainstream Islamic sect in the mid-1700s and began to spread his radical views, which had a large following. Bin Laden could never be accused of being a Wahhabist mostly in "Abdul Wahhab-style." The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan changed Bin Laden's life. Bin Laden was studying Civil Engineering in Saudi Arabia at the time. But in order to join that war, he left Saudi Arabia, joined the Mujahideen forces in Afghanistan and fought in Jalalabad as a guerrilla commander. Through that incident, Bin Laden became ruthless towards some religions in the non-Muslim world, especially in the Western world. This ruthless behaviour of him seemed logical and right to some radicalized people. Because of the West's continued aggression in the Middle East and the defeat of the Muslims or the direct support of Britain, including the US in the Palestinian-Israeli war, inevitably made these states enemies of the radical groups.

Russia in the emergence of terrorism and terrorist organizations is discussed in the sixth chapter. It also includes information about Osama bin Laden's travels.

The Russians were short-sighted, according to the two authors. Russia, like all other countries that have invaded Afghanistan, has left its mark. Russia's most immediate and influential symbol was a country that had suffered more than any other in the globe. The Russians made the same mistake as previous invaders of this country: they neglected the reality that, due to the Afghans' substantial rural population, what works in Kabul does not necessarily work everywhere in the country. Within days of the invasion of Afghanistan, the Russians became "wicked guys," as the two authors described in this chapter, and nearly the entire world perceived them as such. In response to the call for Jihad to defend Islam, radicalized people from all over the world were fleeing to Afghanistan. The comforts and luxuries that Bin Laden had grown accustomed to were not found later in Afghanistan, so he relocated to Sudan's Khartoum, according to the authors. After the Soviet war, Bin Laden became a target in the Western world, and he was forced to leave Afghanistan as a threat to his own security.

"Meeting Key Players: Mullah Omar and the Taliban" is the title of the seventh chapter. Mullah Omar's designation of himself as Amir ul Muminin is discussed in this chapter. Amir ul Muminin refers to the leader of all Muslims, as some argue that he is the Muslims' greatest leader after Muhammad (Sm). It also mentions the event with Mullah Omar's sheet. That is, in Kirka Sharif, Kandahar, the Prophet of Islam Muhammad (Sm) was dressed in a sheet. Mullah Omar took the sheet in his hand and declared himself Amir ul Muminin, the one in control. Some folks thought the episode with the sheet was dramatic. Mullah Omar's home and bunker are also described in the book. Parts of the compound were later rebuilt by American forces and turned into special forces or intelligence operation centre.

In that chapter, the two authors remarked that Saudi Arabia was much more interested in or admiring of the Taliban. Indeed, there was a far closer relationship. The Saudi royal family made it clear that they intended to live alongside the Taliban. Almost every aspect of the Taliban's religious ideology is influenced by Wahhabism. The Saudi royal family, on the one hand, is a supporter of the Taliban. They, on the other hand, seek to make their life easier by maintaining tight relations with the West.

"Osama bin Laden; Mullah Mohammad Omar; Their Focus during This Period" is the title of the eighth chapter. It highlights Osama bin Laden's terrorist activities in the Middle East and throughout Africa. As it turns out, America seemed more annoying to Osama Bin Laden, although he identified the West as his target of global Jihad. But Bin Laden may not have been concerned about the West's ongoing efforts to capture him, or he may have felt extremely secure in his solitude. He was constantly giving interviews to major news organizations—from the safety and security of his own home turf, Tora Bora in east central Afghanistan, near Khost Province. In hindsight, Bin Laden was being incredibly naive, but at the time, it

appeared to the rest of the world that he was in charge, and America was nothing more than an “annoying mosquito.”

The ninth chapter is named after Jordanian national Abu Musab Zarkabi. He formed Tawhid Wa Al-Jihad in 2002. In 2003, a year after the US-led invasion of Iraq, he partnered with Osama bin Laden. Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) was created at the same time. Later, the AQI became a prominent player in militant action.

As discussed in the ninth chapter, the American invasion of Afghanistan following the 9/11 attacks provided extra motivation for Zarqawi to continue his activities. He and his soldiers were more diplomatic than Mullah Omar and the Taliban at their training camp in Herat. When Musab Zarqawi and his soldiers landed in northern Iraq, they quickly found they were “quite insignificant fish” in a big pond. He was surrounded by several Jihadist factions, each led by a different commander who considered Zarqawi as the next Osama bin Laden. Few people knew where Bin Laden was at the time. Zarqawi knew what he had to do, according to the two authors, and he quickly established himself among the local Jihadists who had moved to that small enclave from all over the Muslim world.

The tenth chapter is titled “Birth of the Islamic State.” Osama bin Laden and Musab Zarqawi intended the Islamic State to be resurrected and acknowledged as genuine by the entire globe. The Qur’an and the Hadith, on the other hand, make no mention of the Islamic State’s rebirth. The idea of Imam Mahdi’s arrival, on the other hand, has gained widespread acceptance in the Islamic community around the world. Muslims believe he will appear before the world is destroyed, and then Islam will rule the world. Osama bin Laden viewed the process as a global Islamic consensus that would bring all Muslims, including the Shiites, together. This day would come, Bin Laden felt, but it would take time. Afterwards, everyone will be participating in the alliance’s formation. Musab Zarkabi was “nearly perfect for time and space” in constructing a recognized Islamic state, according to the authors. Zarkabi despised anyone who did not have a strategy and could kill without hesitation.

“Women within Terrorism: New Tactics and What Can We Expect Next” is the title of the last chapter. The role of women in new terrorist threats and tactics is discussed in this chapter. “The world was stunned to learn that Boko Haram had abducted 26 schoolgirls in Chibok, Nigeria, in 2014, before the ‘Me Too’ women’s empowerment movement in the United States,” it says. So far, no one has been found in the search for the 100 kids who were involved in the event. By pointing to an incident that has contributed a new depth to terrorism, the two authors attempted to express a new dimension to terrorism.

According to the authors, social media can be effective in preventing terrorism, such as in the case of the Chibok girls. However, terrorist groups and their malicious aims have found success using social media. It is not unusual to recognize a victim, feel pity for them, or fall in love with a charlatan. The trapped women have been used as suicide bombers by several terrorist organizations around the world. Most of the abducted girls are victims of slavery, rape, and torture. Patricia Campbell Hearst (Patty Hearst), an American writer and actress, was also named by the two authors. Patty Hurst is the granddaughter of William Randolph Hearst, the American publishing magnate. The Symbian Liberation Army kidnapped her in 1984. She was kept to 18 months in their custodial. she was later jailed and made news for bank robbery on behalf of the armed organization. Hearst said in court that while in custody, she was raped and received death threats several times. She was convicted of bank robbery in 1986 and given a 35-year sentence, which was eventually reduced to six years. US President Bill Clinton later acquitted her.

The book delves into the philosophy, structure, and foundations of major terrorist groups. The book discusses how the US has been “defeated” in Afghanistan through one step at a time, the IS danger, and how terrorist groups function. Meanwhile, several fraternities, including Iran, have complained that Western countries, particularly the US, have affiliations with the IS. Many of the IS activities, according to them, had been known to the US ahead of time. As a result, they also issue a warning to those who are concerned. Iran has accused the US of sending a large number of weapons to the Islamic State. There is not enough study on these accusations in the book. The materials that were used, including the Saudi royal family’s participation in funding militancy and terrorism, had been published in old research articles and journals. There is not much new information on terrorism financing.

Nonetheless, the book will be considered a must-read for individuals working in intelligence and law enforcement, as well as researchers and students interested in counterterrorism. Understanding the dynamics of terrorism and terrorism will be extremely beneficial to anyone participating in counterinsurgency and counter-terrorist activities.

Bijoy Basak  
Deputy Commissioner (South),  
Chattogram Metropolitan Police, Bangladesh Police.