

bin Laden: The Man Who Declared War on America

By Yossef Bodansky

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"Fascinating account. I strongly recommend it." —Jeane J. Kirkpatrick

World-renowned terrorism expert Yossef Bodansky explores the transformation of Osama bin Laden from a once promising engineering student into the cold-blooded leader of the radical Islamic terrorist group, al Qaeda. With meticulous detail, Bodansky chronicles the events leading up to the international operation of hunting bin Laden.

In the process, Bodansky pulls together a chilling story that is as ancient as the Crusades; a story that transcends bin Laden and any other single man, one that sweeps from Iran, Afghanistan, and Iraq to Kosovo and beyond. He takes you deep into the heart of centuries-old hatreds that have produced generations of bin Ladens and a terror network of underground armies that can strike virtually anywhere in the world. Fueled by Middle Eastern oil wealth and covertly armed by some of America's closest allies, this terror network is waging a brutal guerrilla war whose aim is nothing short of changing the course of history. The battlefields are increasingly Western city streets, and the casualties are most often innocents caught in the crossfire.

Including information about al Qaeda's pursuit of chemical and nuclear weapons, covert deals between the U.S. and Islamic terrorists, and American efforts in the years-long campaign to capture Osama bin Laden, this book is a sobering wake-up call.

bin Laden: The Man Who Declared War on America By Yossef Bodansky Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Shortly after terrorists led by Osama bin Laden attacked the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, President Bill Clinton ordered retaliatory missile strikes against targets in Afghanistan and Sudan. It was the first time the United States had responded to an individual terrorist with such overwhelming military force. Bin Laden, of course, is no run-of-the-mill rabble-rouser; Clinton called him "perhaps the preeminent organizer and financier of international terrorism in the world today." That's quite a label for someone who, as biographer Yossef Bodansky describes, "lives with his four wives and some fifteen children in a small cave in eastern Afghanistan" without running water. Yet he is "a principal player in a tangled and sinister web of terrorism-sponsoring states, intelligence chieftains, and master terrorists." Remarkably little is known about the man; as Bodansky reveals, even the year of bin Laden's birth is uncertain. This book, then, is more than the story of a single terrorist. It's a description of a whole movement waging a jihad--holy war--against the United States in the belief that America's modernizing influence on Arab nations thwarts Islamic fundamentalist goals. *Bin Laden* is strikingly current, extremely well informed, and thoroughly detailed. Readers interested in facts about the Middle East's violent underworld will find it fascinating--and chilling. Bodansky notes that bin Laden has become a hero to radical Muslim youth, and Osama is now a very popular baby name in many Arab countries. --*John J. Miller*

From Library Journal

This book's very complexity is a sober testament to the confusion most Americans feel when trying to understand why militant Islamic terrorists hate us so much. How is it possible that nations that have sent their best students to our best universities in order to receive a quality education, that welcome our technology, and whose citizens enjoy the material objects we all desire (cars, TVs, computers, etc.) can breed people who think nothing of destroying buildings along with themselves? This is not a standard biography of bin Laden; there is very little known about him, and Bodansky focuses more on the man's actions than on the man himself. The mind-numbing details of organizations, splinters of those organizations, mullahs, sheiks, scholars, political groups, and shifting alliances will overwhelm the average listener. There is also no real explanation of how the terrorists use the Koran as the justification for their deeds. Most Americans are just incapable of entering the mind of bin Laden and getting even a glimmer of why his hatred is so virulent. Nadia May possesses excellent skills in pronouncing the often difficult Arab names, terms, and organizations. The price of the CD version of the book places it in the range of only the largest libraries; other institutions may want to consider the much less-expensive print or cassette editions.

Joseph L. Carlson, Lompoc P.L., CA

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Review

"This fascinating account of Osama bin Laden's war against America illustrates the murky world of Islamic extremism and state sponsored terrorism."

--**Jeane J. Kirkpatrick**, Leavey Professor, Department of Government, Georgetown University

"Americans need to know about Osama bin Laden, and the best place to find out is in this trenchant study of the man. A brilliant work."

--**Fred Barnes**, executive editor of *The Weekly Standard*

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