



National Defense
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“10 YEARS LATER: Insights on al-Qaeda’s Past & Future through Captured Records”

A conference hosted by
--Conflict Records Research Center--
Institute for National Strategic Studies
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Related Reference Articles, Projects and Events

This is not intended to represent a comprehensive listing of national security publications, but to offer a sampling of the many, often conflicting points of view on the subject.

The Terrorist Perspectives Project: Strategic and Operational Views of Al-Qaeda and Associated Movements by Mark E. Stout, Jessica M. Huckabey, John R. Schindler, and Jim Lacey. Naval Institute Press: 5 March 2008.

Abstract: This timely book synthesizes the perspectives of Osama bin Laden and his fellow Salafi jihadists on how to wage war on their many enemies. A team of experts from the Institute for Defense Analyses working on the Terrorist Perspectives Project undertook the study in order to help U.S. military and civilian policymakers, planners, and educators better understand terrorists. In assembling strategic and operational perspectives of Al Qaeda and Associated Movements (AQAM), they focused on the Salafi jihadists intellectual leadership and a sampling of their followers, who together comprise the vanguard of the global jihad and share a common enemy--the West. This project is sponsored by the United States Joint Forces Command.

“In Search of Salafi Jihadist Strategic Thought: Mining the Words of the Terrorists” by Mark Stout, *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 32: 10, 876-892. (Sept, 2009).
<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/section?content=a914662266&fulltext=713240928>

Abstract : Al Qaeda and its affiliates (AQA) are a loose conglomeration of groups and individuals linked by adherence to a form of Sunni Islam that they call Salafi jihadism. The written works of an intellectually vigorous group of thinkers within AQA show that strategic thought grounded in mainstream global thought on revolutionary warfare exists within this community. A major concern of the strategic thinkers is the extent to which the foot soldiers ignore their prescriptions, engaging in disjointed, counterproductive operations. The U.S. Department of Defense is examining methods by which it might broaden scholarly access to an extensive collection of captured terrorist documents. Such is the mission and purpose of the Conflict Records Research Center at the National Defense University.

“Al-Qaida’s Views of Authoritarian Intelligence Services in the Middle East” by Jessica M. Huckabey and Mark E. Stout. *Intelligence and National Security* 25: 3, 327-349. (13 July 2010). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02684527.2010.489782>

Abstract: Al Qaida and its jihadist allies shape their plans and operations substantially in response to threats they face from authoritarian intelligence services of the Middle East. While most jihadists initially believed that victory over their 'near enemies'- so-called 'apostate' regimes - should be their top priority, the ruthlessly effective security apparatuses of their home countries were significant factors in the transition to 'global jihadism', which emphasized the fight against the 'far enemy': the United States. This article presents al Qaida's views of the region's domestic intelligence services by examining captured documents and open source materials.

The Longest War: The Enduring Conflict between America and Al-Qaeda by Peter Bergen. Free Press: 28 June 2011.

Abstract: Ten years have passed since the shocking attacks on the World Trade Center, and after seven years of conflict, the last U.S. combat troops left Iraq only to move into Afghanistan, where the ten-year-old fight continues: the war on terror rages with no clear end in sight. In *The Longest War* Peter Bergen offers a comprehensive history of this war and its evolution, from the strategies devised in the wake of the 9/11 attacks to the fighting in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and beyond. Unlike any other book on this subject, here Bergen tells the story of this shifting war's failures and successes from the perspectives of both the United States and al-Qaeda and its allies. He goes into the homes of al-Qaeda members, rooting into the source of their devotion to terrorist causes, and spends time in the offices of the major players shaping the U.S. strategic efforts in the region.

“Nine Years after 9/11: Confronting the Terrorist Threat to the Homeland”

by Michael Leiter, National Counterterrorism Center. (22 Sept 2010)

http://www.nctc.gov/press_room/speeches/2010-09-22D-NCTC-Leiter-Testimony-SHSGAC-Hearing.pdf

Abstract: During the past year our nation has dealt with the most significant developments in the terrorist threat to the Homeland since 9/11. The three attempted Homeland attacks from overseas-based groups—including Pakistan-based al-Qa‘ida’s plan to attack the New York City subway one year ago, its regional affiliate al-Qa‘ida in the Arabian Peninsula’s (or AQAP’s) attempt to blow up an airliner over Detroit last Christmas, and al-Qa‘ida’s closest ally Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan’s (or TTP’s) attempt to bomb Times Square in May—in addition to two lone actor attacks conducted by homegrown extremists Carlos Bledsoe and Nidal Hassan, surpassed the number and pace of attempted attacks during any year since 9/11. The range of al-Qa‘ida core, affiliated, allied, and inspired US citizens and residents plotting against the Homeland during the past year suggests the threat against the West has become more complex and underscores the challenges of identifying and countering a more diverse array of Homeland plotting.

“Video-recorded Decapitations: A seemingly perfect terrorist tactic that did not spread”

by Martin Harrow, Danish Institute for International Studies. (May 2011).

http://www.ciaonet.org/wps/diis/0022171/f_0022171_18238.pdf

Abstract: In 2002, Daniel Pearl was kidnapped and beheaded in Pakistan. The horrific live footage of the decapitation quickly spread on the internet, causing widespread shock and revulsion. A new and effective terrorist tactic had emerged - which did not require a lot of money, training or weapons to carry out. Added to that, the internet made it possible to disseminate the video content widely. A perfect terrorist weapon for the information age had been invented and it was to be expected that it would soon spread to Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Thailand, and India. But so far it has not. Why?

“The Many Faces of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb” by Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould

Mohamedou, The Geneva Centre for Security Policy. (May 2011)

http://www.ciaonet.org/pbei/gcsp/0022355/f_0022355_18409.pdf

Abstract: Since its reinvention as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQMI) in 2007, the Algerian Salafist Group for Predication and Combat (GSPC) has sought and managed to expand its regional domain of action throughout North Africa, the Sahel, and West Africa, and in targeting France has pursued a strategy of steady internationalization of its threat.

“The Death of Usama bin Ladin” with Bruce Hoffman, Nelly Lahoud, Charles Faddis, Gregory D. Johnson and others. *Combating Terrorism Center Sentinel*: West Point. May 2011

Special Issue. <http://www.ctc.usma.edu/posts/may-2011-special-issue-usama-bin-ladin>

Abstract: Confronted with the sudden death of a leader, terrorist groups become cornered animals. When wounded, they lash out. Not only in hopes of surviving, but also to demonstrate their remaining power and continued relevance. Al-Qa`ida is no different. Thought it will not necessarily attack soon, the United States should brace itself once the 40-day mourning period that some Muslims observe ends. The dual prospect of punishing the United States and re-igniting fear and anxiety following a time of celebration and relief must surely figure prominently in al-Qa`ida's calculus.

“Shiism and Sectarian Conflict in Pakistan: Identity Politics, Iranian Influence, and Tit-for-Tat Violence” by Hassan Abbas, Combating Terrorism Center at West Point. (22 Sept.

2010). http://www.ciaonet.org/wps/ctc/0022359/f_0022359_18413.pdf

Abstract: As a hotbed of violent extremism, Pakistan, along with its Afghan neighbor, has lately received unprecedented amounts of attention among academics and policymakers alike. While the vast majority of contemporary analysis on Pakistan focuses on Sunni extremist groups such as the Pakistani Taliban or the Haqqani Network-arguably the main threat to domestic and regional security emanating from within Pakistan's border-sectarian tensions in this country have attracted relatively little scholarship to date. Mindful that activities involving Shi'i state and non-state actors have the potential to affect U.S. national security interests, the Combating Terrorism Center is therefore proud to release this latest installment of its Occasional Paper Series.