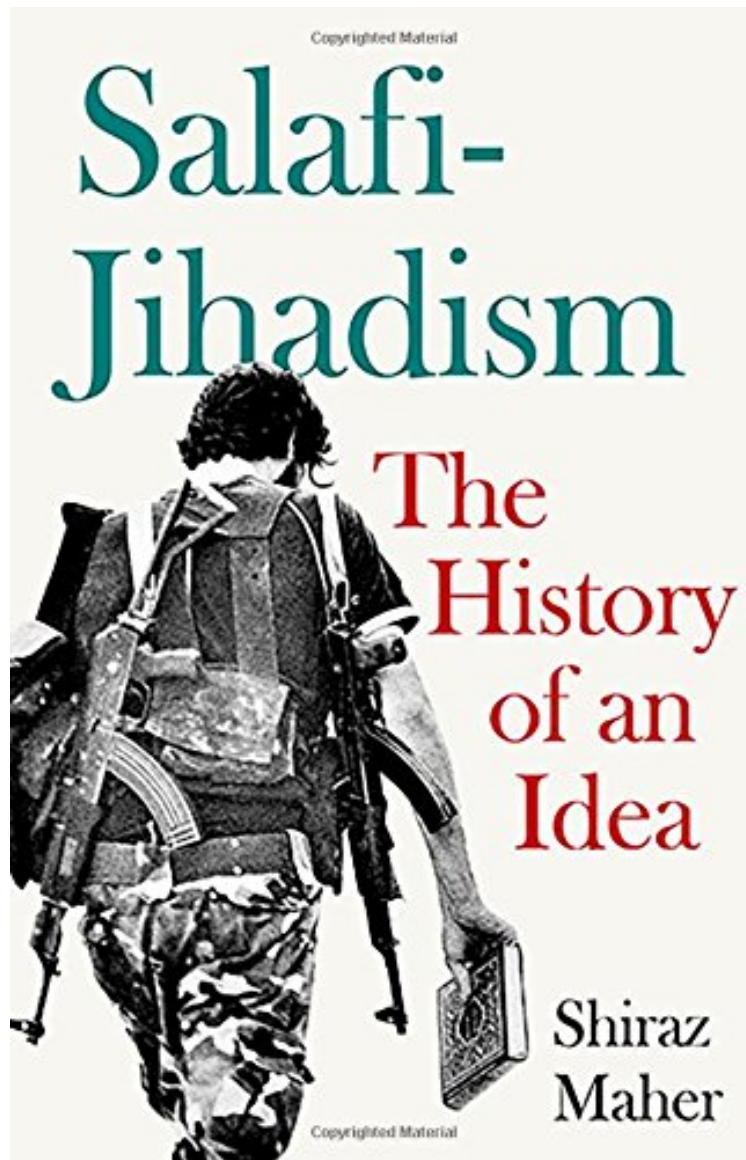


(Free pdf) Salafi-Jihadism: The History of an Idea

## Salafi-Jihadism: The History of an Idea

*Shiraz Maher*

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**Shiraz Maher : Salafi-Jihadism: The History of an Idea** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Salafi-Jihadism: The History of an Idea:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Primer By Zaid This book is a good primer into the historical development of "salafi-jihadism" and provides a valuable overview of the current ideas centered around this movement. Although the author presents a clear and presentable argument, I found several opportunities where he could have explored and explained ideas in more detail. This book also primarily addresses AlQaida and doesn't touch

much on ISIS. Lastly, while the book is clear in explaining the 5 ideas that center salafi-jihadism, I didn't find them to be particularly mutually exclusive; there is overlap in ideas. All in all, it's the only one of its kind and is a well written and informative book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Completely changed my view of the middle east and helped ...By LivingWithRoommates Completely changed my view of the middle east and helped me discover who are real enemy is; not Islam, but Salafi Jihadist 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting book, not much else available on the subject ...By P. R. Swain Interesting book, not much else available on the subject for the general reader. Not the easiest of reads, requires considerable concentration to follow, particularly the many very similarly spelt but dissimilar meaning Arabic words.

No topic has captured the public imagination of late quite so dramatically as the specter of global jihadism. While much has been said about the way jihadists behave, their ideology remains poorly understood. As the Levant has imploded and millenarian radicals claim to have revived a Caliphate based on the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed, the need for a nuanced and accurate understanding of jihadist beliefs has never been greater. Shiraz Maher charts the intellectual underpinnings of salafi-jihadism from its origins in the mountains of the Hindu Kush to the jihadist insurgencies of the 1990s and the 9/11 wars. What emerges is the story of a pragmatic but resilient warrior doctrine that often struggles - as so many utopian ideologies do - to consolidate the idealism of theory with the reality of practice. His ground-breaking introduction to salafi-jihadism recalibrates our understanding of the ideas underpinning one of the most destructive political philosophies of our time by assessing classical works from Islamic antiquity alongside those of contemporary ideologues. Packed with refreshing and provocative insights, Maher explains how war and insecurity engendered one of the most significant socio-religious movements of the modern era.

"[A] most timely and relevant contribution to the growing literature on the subject, and is enlightened, informed, and insightful. Highly recommended." - Choice "An excellent and original account of what jihadists actually think. Mr Maher goes well beyond previous works in setting out a taxonomy of jihadists' system of beliefs. It will be a must-read work in the study of radicalism." - The Economist "Mr. Maher deserves praise for producing a book that is the first of its kind, synthesizing work that has been done on the individual components of Salafi-jihadism. Readers looking for a rigorous but lucid account of Islamic State's ideas will be well-served by Mr. Maher's book." - Wall Street Journal "Shiraz Maher does a first rate job of explaining a complex and important issue. Salafi-Jihadism is arguably the fastest growing current within the Muslim thought today and is essential to our understanding of how groups like the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda recruit and justify their acts." - Hassan Hassan, Associate Fellow of Chatham House; author of the New York Times bestseller ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror "Shiraz Maher makes it clear in his fascinating new book that we are witnessing a very recent phenomenon: "the greatest period of anti-western intellectual development in Salafi-jihadi thought took place in the years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks". - Patrick French, The Guardian "[A] groundbreaking study is a masterclass in how to do intellectual history, and one that nobody with an interest in radical Islam should miss." - Tom Holland, New Statesman "Although Salafi jihadism has profoundly shaped global politics for more than three decades, Shiraz Maher is the first to survey the doctrines that have animated and divided the movement. His book will be a standard reference for years to come." - Will McCants, author of The ISIS Apocalypse: The History, Strategy, and Doomsday Vision of the Islamic State "In this perceptive and lucid survey, Shiraz Maher, who has built up a justified reputation as an authority on contemporary Islamic extremism, traces the evolution of the key ideas behind one of the most significant religious and political movements of our time. He explains their origins, meanings and, above all, their real impact on violent militants over the last three or four decades. Comprehensive and thought-provoking, this is an important and timely contribution." - Jason Burke, author of The New Threat From Islamic Militancy "Salafi-Jihadism provides an excellent and important insight into an intricately constructed religious and intellectual situation .. it provides much needed context to some of the most complex and consequential events in the world today. With its elegant, engaging style and crisp brevity, this book is an excellent investigation into a subject many of us would do well to learn that bit more about." - Middle East Eye About the Author Shiraz Maher (PhD) is a Senior Research Fellow at the International Center for the Study of Radicalization (ICSR) at Kings College, University of London, and teaches at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.