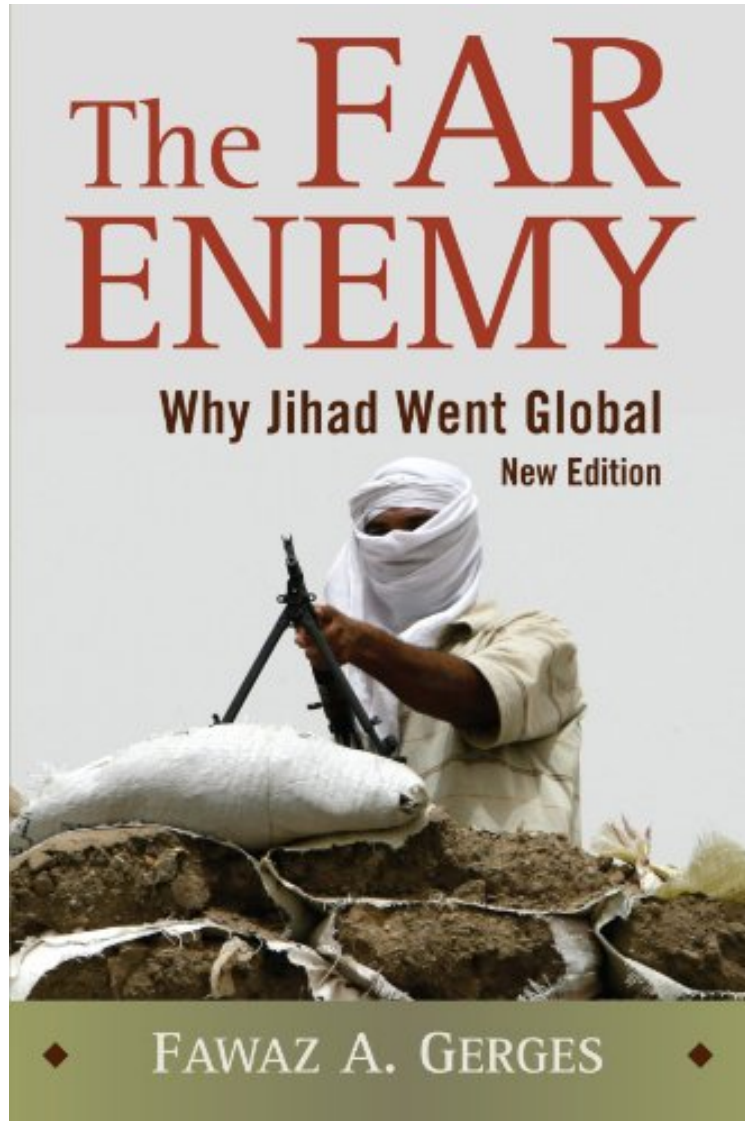


(Read free ebook) The Far Enemy: Why Jihad Went Global

## The Far Enemy: Why Jihad Went Global

*Fawaz A. Gerges*

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#1161333 in Books Cambridge University Press 2009-04-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.98 x .91 x 5.981, 1.35 #File Name: 0521737435402 pages | File size: 23.Mb

**Fawaz A. Gerges : The Far Enemy: Why Jihad Went Global** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Far Enemy: Why Jihad Went Global:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Multi-dimensional Jihad's By Retired Reader The term Jihad is based on the Qur'an saying "...you who believe fight the unbelievers who are near to you." In practice this has been interpreted to mean defending Islam, including the Shari'a (Islamic Law), against internal and external threats. This interpretation has produced the concepts of the 'near enemy' that is threats from within the realm of Islam (Dar al Islam) usually from secular or apostate rulers and the 'far enemy' that is threats to Islam from non-Islamic States such

as those of the West or Israel. This is a way of introducing this most important book by Fawz A. Gerges. Its central thesis is that the concept of Jihad is far from monolithic, but has splintered into many separate movements with very different agendas. According to Gerges these include a relatively small movement that adheres to the far enemy ideology of Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda movement. This movement sees the principal threat to Islam as coming primarily from the U.S. and Israel as well as the West in general. Gerges does not discount the threat posed by this movement, but does note that it is very much a minority movement within a much broader spectrum of Jihadist movements. The inference from Gerges' book is that if al Qaeda is understood for what it is, a relatively minor group in a much wider Jihadist movement, it can be better combated. As Gerges makes clear the concept of Jihad is a complex one and requires a good deal of knowledge to understand the implications of Jihadist movements for U.S. National Security. This is not a perfect book and Gerges is at best a pedestrian writer. Yet, the attentive reader can extract a good deal of relevant information about the ideology and institutional structure of the perpetrators of the dreadful attacks of September 11 2001. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. More than a Slogan By Bill ProI spent most of my working life in Muslim countries ranging from Libya to Pakistan, with long-term stops in Turkey and Iran. I spoke Turkish well, could manage in Arabic and Urdu and was a flop at Farsi. I visited Morocco, Algeria, Saudi-Arabia and Oman. Most "explanations" of 9/11 left me completely underwhelmed. The Far Enemy provides the only rational explanation for 9/11 that I've heard or read. I strongly recommend the book to anyone who wants to think seriously about the opportunities and challenges America faces in dealing with disaffected Muslims. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Far Enemy By Norman R. Smart The Far Enemy: Why Jihad Went Global Well written. Very detailed. Some repetition. Very informative. Writer knows his subject. Should be required reading at the State Department.

Fawaz Gerges' book on al Qaeda and the jihadist movement has become a classic in the field since it was published in 2005. Here he argued that far from being an Islamist front united in armed struggle, or jihad against the Christian West, as many misguided political commentators and politicians opined, al Qaeda represented a small faction within the jihadist movement, criticized by other groups who preferred to concentrate on changing the Muslim world, rather than attacking the Far Enemy and making the fight global. In the intervening years, with the advance of the 'War on Terror' and the invasion of Iraq, much has changed and, just as Gerges showed, al Qaeda's fortunes have taken a significant downturn. Revisiting *The Far Enemy* in this new edition, Gerges demonstrates that not only have the jihadists split ranks, but that voices from within the ultra-religious right, those that previously supported al Qaeda, are condemning its tactics as violent, unethical, and out of accord with the true meaning of jihad. In fact, millions of Muslims worldwide have rejected al-Qaeda's ideology and strategies and blame Osama bin Laden and his cohorts for the havoc the organisation has wrecked on their communities. Al-Qaeda is now in the wilderness suffering massive erosion of authority and legitimacy in Muslim eyes and facing a fierce revolt from within. As Gerges warns, the next US administration would do well to use political and socio-economic strategies rather than military means to ensure that it stays there.

Praise for the First Edition "...a few brave academics have stepped with books that evince a clear-sighted vision and solid expertise. Among the best of these is Fawaz A. Gerges's *The Far Enemy: Why Jihad Went Global*." - Chronicle of Higher Education "The title of Fawaz A. Gerges's incisive *The Far Enemy* refers to the al Qaeda term for the United States and its Western allies, but the book's focus is squarely on the internal divisions and ideological disputes that rent the jihadis during the mid-1990s." - Washington Post Book World "The author uses primary Arabic sources and interviews with militants to give a fascinating account of one of the most complex phenomena in the contemporary Middle East. Highly recommended." - Choice Suggested reading about Islam and its history, New York Times "Week in " section "The book provides a remarkable picture of the complexity of the jihad movement in recent decades." - The International History "The *Far Enemy* is a significant work and is essential reading for anyone who wishes to understand the trajectory of jihad movements over the past three decades." - International Journal of Middle East Studies About the Author Fawaz A. Gerges holds the Christian A. Johnson Chair in Middle Eastern Studies and International Affairs at Sarah Lawrence, New York. His books include *Journey of the Jihadist: Inside Muslim Militancy* (2006) and *America and Political Islam: Clash of Interests or Clash of Cultures?* (Cambridge, 1999). He was educated at Oxford University and the London School of Economics and has previously been a Research Fellow at Harvard University, Massachusetts and Princeton University, New Jersey. He was also a senior analyst and regular commentator for ABC television news. He has written extensively on Arab and Muslim politics, social movements, American foreign policy, and relations between the world of Islam and the Christian West. His articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Independent*, *Al Hayat*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Survival* and others. Gerges has been the recipient of a MacArthur, Fulbright and Carnegie Fellowships and his books have been translated into a number of foreign languages.