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978-0-521-73236-9 - Jihad in Saudi Arabia: Violence and Pan-Islamism since 1979

Thomas Hegghammer

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Jihad in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia, homeland of Usama bin Ladin and many 9/11 hijackers, is widely considered to be the heartland of radical Islamism. For decades, the conservative and oil-rich kingdom contributed recruits, ideologies and money to jihadi groups worldwide. Yet Islamism within Saudi Arabia itself remains poorly understood. Why has Saudi Arabia produced so many militants? Has the Saudi government supported violent groups? How strong is al-Qaida's foothold in the kingdom and does it threaten the regime? Why did Bin Ladin not launch a campaign there until 2003? This book presents the first ever history of Saudi jihadism based on extensive fieldwork in the kingdom and primary sources in Arabic. It offers a powerful explanation for the rise of Islamist militancy in Saudi Arabia and sheds crucial new light on the history of the global jihadist movement.

THOMAS HEGGHAMMER is a Senior Fellow at the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI).

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A note on conventions

Transliteration

Words and titles in Arabic are transcribed using a simplified version of the *Encyclopaedia of Islam* system. Ayn is not included at the beginning of names (e.g. Abdallah not ‘Abdallah). Transcribed Arabic words are never capitalised. Arabic words in unabridged English dictionaries (Qur’an, hadith etc.) are not italicised.

Names

Arabic names are transcribed according to the above-mentioned system (though capitalised) unless a different transcription is dominant in English-language texts (e.g. Khobar not Khubar). Where different usages occur, I use the one closest to the above-mentioned system (e.g. Usama bin Ladin not Osama bin Laden). The article is dropped before common place-names (e.g. Riyadh not al-Riyadh).

Footnotes and references

Footnotes pertain to the entire preceding paragraph, not only the preceding sentence. Full URL and consultation date of Internet sources have been omitted, but all cited documents have been stored electronically by the author. Some interviewees have been anonymised.