



Jihad Joe: Americans Who Go to War in the Name of Islam

By J. M. Berger

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They are Americans, and they are mujahideen. Hundreds of men from every imaginable background have walked away from the traditional American dream to volunteer for battle in the name of Islam. Some have taken part in foreign wars that aligned with U.S. interests, while others have carried out violence against Westerners abroad, fought against the U.S. military, and even plotted terrorist attacks on American soil. This story plays out over decades and continents: from the Americans who took part in the siege of Mecca in 1979 through conflicts in Lebanon, Afghanistan, and Bosnia, and continuing today in Afghanistan and Somalia.

Investigative journalist J. M. Berger profiles numerous fighters, including some who joined al Qaeda and others who chose a different path. In these pages he portrays, among others, Abdullah Rashid, who fought the Soviets in Afghanistan; Mohammed Loay Bayazid, who was present at the founding of al Qaeda; Ismail Royer, who fought in Bosnia and Kashmir, then returned to run training camps in the United States; Adam Gadahn, a Jewish Californian who is now al Qaeda's chief spokesman; and Anwar Awlaki, the Yemeni-American imam with links to 9/11 who is now considered one of the biggest threats to America's security.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Investigative journalist and documentary filmmaker Berger (Triple Cross) lifts the veil on the phenomenon of American jihadists in this timely and chilling examination. While most Americans were shocked when John Walker Lindh, the "American Taliban" and a U.S. citizen, was captured in Afghanistan in 2001, American citizens had been joining the international jihad for decades—Berger argues that at least 1,400 Americans have taken part in military jihad over the past 30 years. While most activity has taken place abroad, American jihadists also have struck at home—the 2009 Fort Hood, Tex., massacre, for example. Berger fears "it is likely that the American jihadist movement will succeed in a spectacular attack on home soil," and believes that knowing "why Americans take up the banner of jihad is the first step" will help to counter this problem. Drawing on detailed case studies of individual American jihadists, the author concludes that they are a diverse group and their "path to radicalization begins with a rock-solid belief that Muslims are a victim class." Berger's exposé painstakingly lays out the scope and character of the American jihadist movement and points the way to a national debate on solutions. (June)

Review

New York Times: "J. M. Berger's "Jihad Joe," a sober, factual account of the Americans who have been lured to the cause of religious violence, offers a useful reminder that this phenomenon is nothing new, long predating the Sept. 11 attacks. ... At a time when some politicians and pundits blur the line between Islam and terrorism, Berger, who knows this subject far better than the demagogues, sharply cautions against vilifying Muslim Americans. ... It is a timely warning from an expert who has not lost his perspective."

Zenpundit: "Berger's work is detail-packed and focused, and a useful resource for that reason alone. But it is also and specifically the work of someone who has read and talked with and listened to the people he is writing about, and his work carries their voices embedded in his own commentary. It thus joins such works as Jessica Stern's *Terror in the Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill...* Berger's is a book to read, certainly -- and more significantly perhaps, a book to admire."

Publisher's Weekly: "...Berger lifts the veil on the phenomenon of American jihadists in this timely and chilling examination. ... painstakingly lays out the scope and character of the American jihadist movement and points the way to a national debate on solutions."

From the Back Cover

REVIEW

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-Charles Cameron, *Zenpundit.com*

ADVANCE PRAISE FOR "JIHAD JOE"

"A fascinating journey into the rise, expansion, and future of American jihadism. J. M. Berger goes beyond the Awlaki mania to investigate firsthand the changing nature of the terrorist threat to the United States."
-Jean-Charles Brisard, former chief investigator for the 9/11 families' lawsuits

"Jihad Joe is a hell of a book -- authoritatively reported, well sourced, and painstakingly researched. This is required reading for anyone seeking to understand the true nature of the terrorist threat that confronts us. Berger has succeeded in producing a timely work that will tell everyone something they didn't know about the topic, whether they are everyday people or those well versed in the subject."

-Josh Meyer, former terrorism/national security reporter, Los Angeles Times, and director of education and outreach, Medill National Security Journalism Initiative, Northwestern University

"A must-read insight into America's Muslim 'holy warriors.' J. M. Berger tracked down the families and former associates of U.S. citizens who turned to jihad and violence, and asked a key question: why? Jihad Joe is meticulously researched and refreshingly free of rhetoric."

-David Hebditch, documentary filmmaker and coauthor of How to Stage a Military Coup

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kenneth Tillman:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children till adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for us. The book Jihad Joe: Americans Who Go to War in the Name of Islam was making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The e-book Jihad Joe: Americans Who Go to War in the Name of Islam is not only giving you considerably more new information but also to get your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship together with the book Jihad Joe: Americans Who Go to War in the Name of Islam. You never really feel lose out for everything if you read some books.

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holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the publication untitled Jihad Joe: Americans Who Go to War in the Name of Islam can be excellent book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Matthew Simons:

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