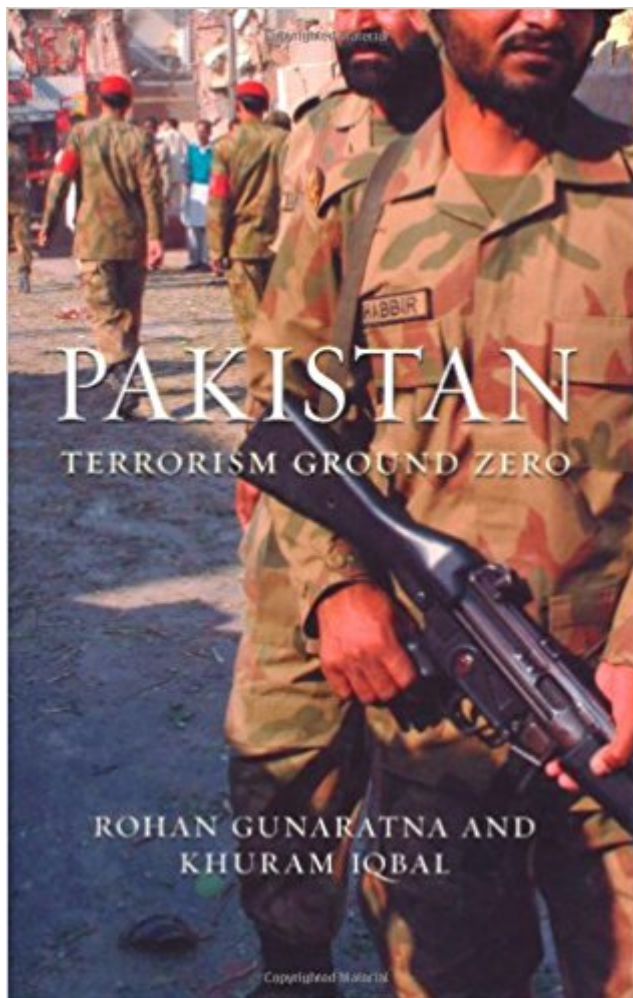




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Pakistan: Terrorism Ground Zero



Synopsis

As made abundantly clear in the classified documents recently made public by WikiLeaks, Pakistan is the keystone in the international fight against terrorism today. After the US-led coalition targeted terrorist groups operating in Afghanistan, these groups, including al Qaeda and the Taliban, relocated to the Federally Administered Tribal Area of Pakistan. From its base in this remote, inhospitable region of Pakistan, al Qaeda and its associated cells have planned, prepared, and executed numerous terrorist attacks around the world, in addition to supporting and waging insurgencies in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, and elsewhere. This book is the first detailed analysis of the myriad insurgent groups working in Pakistan. Written by well-known expert on global terrorism Rohan Gunaratna and Khuram Iqbal, a leading scholar in Pakistan, the book examines and reviews the nature, structure, and agendas of the groups, their links to activists in other countries, such as India and Iran, and the difficulties of defeating terrorism in this part of the world. Drawing on extensive field research and interviews with government officials and former terrorists, the authors argue that Pakistan faces grave and continuing pressures from within, and that without steadfast international goodwill and support, the threats of extremism, terrorism, and insurgency will continue to grow. This timely and necessary book argues that if the international community is to win the battle against ideological extremism and operational terrorism around the world, then Pakistan should be in the vanguard of the fight.

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Customer Reviews

“Gunaratna remains one of the preeminent global experts on terrorism. His historical grasp

of the origins of al Qaeda and its ideology combined with his vast network of experts around the world—providing him and his readers with important insights into the nature of the threats we all face. . . . To understand how al Qaeda evolved or inspired violent extremism continues to adapt in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and around the globe, one needs to listen to and read Rohan Gunaratna. —Juan Carlos Zarate, senior advisor to the Center for Strategic and International Studies (Juan Carlos Zarate) “This is an important work that explains the terrorism complexities of Pakistan like no other book on the market. This will be a must read for military and intelligence analysts, policy makers and academics. No book better describes the interlocking relationships in Pakistan among a host of al Qaeda, Taliban, and associated groups as well as this. It will be the Pakistan-terrorist reference book for the next decade. —General Russ Howard, founding Director of the Combating Terrorism Centre at the United States Military Academy at West Point (Russ Howard) “Offers an interesting and compelling case as to how Pakistan became an epicenter of global terrorism over the years. Ultimately, this work demonstrates why grasping the complex nature of the threat is paramount in winning a crucial battle against the global war on terror.” —Sara De Silva, Centre for Transnational Crime Prevention, University of Wollongong, Australia (Sara De Silva) “Pakistan: Terrorism Ground Zero makes an important contribution to our empirical understanding of this key theatre through its descriptive analysis of the nature, structure and agendas of the various radical Islamist groups operating in Pakistan, as well as their links with co-religionists in Iran and India . . . a useful addition to the literature on the vital important Afpak Theatre, drawing attention to the complex challenges which the book has highlighted will not be easy to meet, certainly not by Pakistan alone.” —Andrew T.H. Tan, University of New South Wales (Andrew T.H. Tan) “A significant and timely contribution.” —Weekly Pulse (Islamabad) (Weekly Pulse) “The most important battle in the ‘War on terror’ is being fought in Pakistan. The book reveals intensity and complexity of the matter in detail. Leaving Pakistan alone in this horrible situation will repeat the 1990s. Who will be the ultimate winner? What will be the scenario regarding regional and global peace? Pakistan: Terrorism Ground Zero makes it clear that there is an immediate need to revisit Counter Terrorism initiatives.” (News (Pakistan)) “Gunaratna and Iqbal have done an excellent job of documenting the different strands of terrorism in the country. This book would form an excellent base for those interested in more in-depth analysis of specific trends, such as possible impacts of terrorism emanating from Pakistan . . . this book fills an important gap.” (Dawn (Pakistan)) “Written by two terrorism experts . . . it is the first detailed analysis of all the militant

groups operating in Pakistan. It is a daunting array an important work." (Christina Lamb)

Rohan Gunaratna is head of the International Centre on Political Violence and Terrorism Research and professor of security studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Khuram Iqbal is head of research at the Pak Institute for Peace Studies in Islamabad, Pakistan, where he has conducted extensive field research on Islamist organizations, suicide terrorism, radicalization, and madrassas in Pakistan.

Pakistan: Terrorism Ground Zero by Rohan Gunaratna and Khuram Iqbal is definately a book of details: a book which details the creation of the Pakistan Taliban after the US/NATO, post 9/11 campaign to capture Osama bin Laden and to defeat Al Qaeda: a campaign which drove the Jihadis into Pakistan's FATA region. This is definately a book that the US intelligence and policy-making communities should have on their desks as reference before intel ops are created or policy made and directed toward Pakistan. It certainly is not a simple matter of "Pakistan supports terrorism" even in the wake of the assassination of Osama bin Laden and, as the authors point out, the post 9/11 situation in Pakistan is incredibly "complex". One reason for this complexity is the creation of the "Pakistan Taliban" and its subsequent factionalization into groups with different leadership, precedents and practices. Pakistan: Terrorism Ground Zero details this factionalization and the consequences which include ~20,000 Taliban-related deaths of Pakistani troops and civilians during the period of 2003-2008. These Taliban-related related deaths and the assassination of Osama bin Laden in Abbotabad have validated with certainty the contention of Rohan Gunaratna and Khuram Iqbal that Pakistan is the epicenter of globalterrorism. They have suggested that Pakistan build a stronger counterinsurgency force and that this force may be encouraged by Pakistanis due to Taliban attacks on Pakistani citizens. IMO, the other side of counterinsurgency equation is peacebuilding initiative based on human rights and whether or not these precedents and practices are valid alternatives to the strict Islamic laws usually imposed in Pakistan.

The writing's somewhat jumbled, and how many times can you say "Pakistan's doing everything it can to battle terrorism?" The author also seems to be saying that the U.S. had it coming because it failed to rebuild Afghanistan. Like it's the United States responsibility to rebuild a country destroyed by the Soviets, and then by the Taliban. It just reads like "damned if you do--damned if you don't." I watched this entire event and didn't see any other country offering to do a damn thing. Read the facts; U.S. intervention in the form of the Stinger is what drove the Soviets out. Think about this:

"Nation building" is a myth--it's impossible. Help is good, yet nation building can only be done from the inside. No, you say? Then name a modern example to the contrary. There isn't one. "Nation building" is political speak.

this book will detail the problems with a nuclear Pakistan and a radical embracing country like Pakistan that needs terrorist to protect it self from India a great read for anyone that is uneducated on the issues with Pakistan who i guess are supposed to be allies but i think they just want our military aid money. nothing in common with the United States

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