



ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror (Updated Edition)

By Michael Weiss, Hassan Hassan

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Fully Revised & Updated Edition of the *New York Times* Bestselling and Highly Praised Book on ISIS

With newly added material and breaking news including:

- Interview with a former ISIS spymaster
- Why ISIS is targeting Europe and the US
- What Russia wants in Syria
- Revelations on the brutal ideology of ISIS

With brutal attacks in last year across the globe—Brussels, Paris, Beirut, Egypt, Turkey—the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has proved itself the greatest terrorist threat in the world today. They have conquered massive territories in Syria and Iraq in a bid to create a new Muslim caliphate under the strict dictates of Sharia law.

In this fully revised and updated edition of *ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror*, American journalist Michael Weiss and Syrian analyst Hassan Hassan explain how these violent extremists evolved from a nearly defeated Iraqi insurgent group into a jihadi army of international volunteers who, with slickly produced murder videos, are spreading violence and mayhem across the globe. Beginning with the early days of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the founder of ISIS's first incarnation, Weiss and Hassan explain who the key players are—from their leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi to the former Saddam Baathists in their ranks—where they come from, how they have attracted both local and global support, and how they operate—from their social media strategy to their illicit oil revenues. As money and matériel continue to flow into the region to combat the ISIS's spreading terror, other forces—Assad's regime, Russian planes, Iranian Quds Forces, and other Shiite militias—are gaining power and using the fight against ISIS as a means to leverage their agenda in the region.

Political and military maneuvering by the United States, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Russia have fueled ISIS's explosive expansion. In five new chapters, the authors delve further into the inner workings of the Army of Terror and what it is like

to live under their ever-tightening rule. With invaluable and exclusive insider information, the authors explore the Islamic State's enigmatic recruitment and training methods, the impact of their military successes and failures, and how they structure and empower home-grown cells worldwide to carry out their terror. Drawing on original interviews with former US military officials and current ISIS fighters—and brand-new interviews with a former ISIS spy, as well as Kurdish and Yazidi survivors of the ISIS's assault on northern Iraq—the authors reveal the internecine struggles within the movement itself, as well as ISIS's bloody hatred of Shiite Muslims, which is generating another sectarian war in the region. A new generation of terror has dawned in the world and to understand how to stop it, we must understand who they are.

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Editorial Review

Review

Times of London Best Books of 2015

Wall Street Journal Top 10 Books on Terrorism

"A remarkable book."

— **Anderson Cooper**

"Weiss and Hassan provide a detailed explanation of how the Islamic State 'manages savagery' on the ground . . . this account of the Islamic State in Iraq is a valuable summation and the most serious book-length study of the Islamic State to be published so far."

— **New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice**

"Weiss and Hassan capture the complexity of the . . . imbroglios that gave rise to the Islamic State . . . in this thorough and accessible book." —**Foreign Affairs**

"The first book to fully explain what ISIS is seeking and why they are such a threat to the world. An absolute must-read for anyone who wants to understand the risk we all face from radical Islam."

—**Douglas E. Schoen**, political analyst, author of *The Russia-China Axis: The New Cold War and America's Crisis of Leadership*

"A . . . detailed and nuanced story."

— **James Traub**, *Wall Street Journal*

"Easily the best history I've read of the evolution of the terror group."

— **Kareem Shaheen**, *The Guardian*

"Weiss and Hassan have produced a detailed and readable book. Their informants include American and regional military officials and intelligence operatives, defected Syrian spies and diplomats, and – most fascinating of all – Syrians who work for Isis (these are divided into categories such as politickers, pragmatists, opportunists and fence-sitters). The authors provide useful insights into Isis governance – a combination of divide-and-rule, indoctrination and fear – and are well placed for the task. Hassan, an expert on tribal and jihadist dynamics, is from Syria's east. Weiss reported from liberated al-Bab, outside Aleppo, before Isis took it over."

—**Robin Yassin-Kassab**, author of *The Road from Damascus*, is writing (with Leila al-Shami) a book on the civil activists of the Syrian revolution, (*The Guardian*)

"Recounted in painstaking detail . . . the book presents a granular analysis of the IS's organization, ideology,

funding and recruitment.”

—**Muhammad Idrees Ahmad**, author of *The Road to Iraq: the Making of a Neoconservative War (In These Times)*

”*ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror*, by Michael Weiss and Hassan Hassan, does a first-rate job of describing the Islamic State’s layers . . . in Syria and in Iraq.”

— **Paul Berman**, author of *A Tale of Two Utopias*, *Terror and Liberalism*, *Power and the Idealists*, and *The Flight of the Intellectuals* (*Tablet*)

“Concise, valuable, and a compelling read for anyone—general reader or specialist—interested in ISIS.”

— **Aymenn Jawad al-Tamimi**, *Syria Comment*

“Incredibly rich and valuable for the specialist and non-specialist alike . . . it is a rich and nuanced piece touching on all the points that the arrival of ISIS has raised in Syria and Iraq.”

— **Tam Hussein**, *The Huffington Post*

“Michael Weiss and Hassan Hassan provide a comprehensive account of how the Islamic State came to be, who is to blame for its emergence, and why world leaders should be worried about its expansion.”

— **Kevin Sullivan**, editor of *Real Clear World*

”*ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror* is brilliantly easy to read . . . concise yet thorough, it will surprise and shatter the beliefs of many.”

— **Kyle Orton**, Middle East analyst, *Left Foot Forward*

”[A] superb piece of journalism, unsparing in its analysis of the folly of the Obama administration.”

— **Nick Cohen**, *The Spectator (UK)*

“Weiss and Hassan give a concise yet detailed account of the rise of the terror movement, anybody who wants to work out where they stand on Iraq and Syria will find this book invaluable”

— **Daniel Finkelstein**, *The Times* Best Books of 2015

About the Author

MICHAEL WEISS is a senior editor at *The Daily Beast*, a CNN contributor, and the editor-in-chief of *The Interpreter*. He has written for *Foreign Policy*, *The Guardian*, Foreign Affairs, Politico, and a host of other publications.

HASSAN HASSAN is a resident fellow at the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy and associate fellow at Chatham House. He is also a columnist for *The National* in Abu Dhabi. His writing has frequently appeared in *The Guardian*, *Foreign Policy*, *Foreign Affairs* and the *New York Times*.

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