

Contents

1 In Search of a Roadmap to Peace and Understanding	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 The MENA Region and Its History of Violence	4
1.2.1 622 CE–750 CE	4
1.2.2 752 CE–1919 CE	4
1.2.3 1919 CE–Present	5
1.3 Understanding the Social Psychology of Islamist Jihad Terrorism	6
1.3.1 Economic Ill-Being Factors Related to the Rise of Islamist Jihad Militancy	8
1.3.2 Political Ill-Being Factors Related to the Rise of Islamist Jihad Militancy	10
1.3.3 Religious Ill-Being Factors Related to the Rise of Islamist Jihad Militancy	12
1.3.4 Globalization and Media Ill-Being Factors Related to the Rise of Islamist Jihad Terrorism	16
1.3.5 Cultural Ill-Being Factors Related to the Rise of Islamist Jihad Militancy	18
1.4 Conclusion	20
References	20
2 Jews, Christians, and Muslims: Historical Conflicts and Challenges	25
2.1 Introduction	25
2.2 Brief History of the Nations and Cultures of the MENA Region	27
2.2.1 From Polytheism to Monotheism	29
2.2.2 The Legacy	30
2.2.3 The Historical Record of Inter-Religious Conflicts and Socio-Political Development in the Region	31

2.3	Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: Shared Beliefs and Origins of Conflict	31
2.4	Abraham and the Emergence of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (2500 BCE–500 CE)	37
2.5	The Rapid Rise of Judaism (C. 3600 BCE–Present)	38
2.6	The Rapid Growth of Christianity (50 CE–Present)	40
2.7	The Rapid Growth of Islam (632 CE–Present)	43
2.7.1	Violence and Islam	45
2.8	Discussion and Conclusion	46
	References	47
3	Joblessness, Political Unrest, and Jihadism Among the Region's Youth: Contemporary Challenges and Future Trends	51
3.1	Introduction	51
3.2	The MENA Region's Population (and Wealth Concentrations)	54
3.2.1	The Six Most Populous Countries in the Middle East, 2016–2018	55
3.2.2	The MENA Region's Five Least Populous Countries in the Middle East, 2016–2018	55
3.2.3	Egypt and Its Increasing Social and Economic Challenges	57
3.3	The MENA Region's Population Pyramid	59
3.3.1	Population Pyramid for Iran, 2014	59
3.3.2	Economic and Population-Related Social Deprivation in Iran and the Larger MENA Region	61
3.4	The MENA Region's Economic Outlook to 2050	62
3.5	Current Economic Trends in the MENA Region	63
3.6	A Region in Economic Crisis	64
3.6.1	Joblessness, Entrepreneurs, and Economic Frustration Among the MENA Region's Young People, Including University Graduates	65
3.6.2	Other Major Economic Challenges Confronting the MENA Region	68
3.7	Economic Frustration, Violence, and Terrorism	69
3.8	Looking Back, but Moving Forward: The Ultimate Economic Challenges Confronting the MENA Region	69
3.9	Discussion	70
	References	72
4	Cultural Drivers of Jihadist Terrorism and Increasing Religiosity	77
4.1	Introduction	77
4.2	Muslim Worldviews Versus Islamist Jahadi Ideology	80
4.3	Cultural Drivers of Islamist Jihadism	83

4.3.1	Grievance and Humiliation Crisis	85
4.3.2	Revenge and Defeat the Enemy	86
4.3.3	Establishment of the Islamic State and Re-establishment of the Islamic Caliphate	86
4.3.4	Vanguard of the <i>Ummah</i>	87
4.3.5	Martyrdom and Reward in the Afterlife	87
4.3.6	Glorification of Allah	88
4.3.7	Defending Sacred Places	88
4.3.8	The Temporal Paradigm	89
4.3.9	Chivalric and Heroic Feats	90
4.4	Conclusions	90
	References	91
5	Political Drivers of Islamist Jihad	95
5.1	Introduction	95
5.2	Libya	97
5.3	Egypt	99
5.4	Syria	101
5.5	Iraq	103
5.6	Saudi Arabia	105
5.7	Sudan	107
5.8	Conclusion	108
	References	110
6	Globalization, the Media, and Islamist Jihad	113
6.1	Introduction	113
6.2	Globalization and the Breakdown of the Welfare State	114
6.3	Globalization, Consumerism, and Postmodernism	115
6.4	Negative Media Portrayals of Islam and Muslims in Western and Global Media	116
6.5	The Use of Global Media by Wahhabis and Islamist Jihadi Terrorists	118
6.6	The Effect of Media Owned and Operated by Political Islamists	120
6.7	Summary and Conclusion	123
	References	125
7	Current Response: Counterterrorism Strategies Focusing on the Supply-Side of the Terrorism Market	129
7.1	Introduction	129
7.2	Supply-Side Counterterrorism Policies and Action: Dismantling the Islamist Jihadist Organization	131
7.2.1	The Marketing Management System of Jihadist Organizations and Counterterrorism Strategies	133

7.2.2	The Human Resources Management System of Jihadist Organizations and Counterterrorism Strategies	139
7.3	Conclusion	142
	References	144
8	Proposed Response: Counterterrorism Strategies Focusing on the Demand Side of the Terrorism Market	149
8.1	Introduction	149
8.2	Global Terrorism and Global Response	153
8.3	Drivers of Terrorism and Proposed Policies of Counterterrorism	156
8.3.1	Culture and Counterterrorism Strategies	156
8.3.2	Religion, Religious Ideology, and Counterterrorism Strategies	157
8.3.3	Economic Ill-Being and Counterterrorism Strategies	161
8.3.4	Political Ill-Being and Counterterrorism Strategies	163
8.3.5	Globalization, Media and Communication Technologies	165
8.4	Conclusion	167
	References	170