

**Bernard Haykel** presents his views on the historical roots and future prospects of Al-Qaeda.

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## The Speaker

Bernard Haykel is Professor of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University and Director of the Institute for Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia.

## Review Questions

**CHAPTER 1:** *The historical roots of Al-Qaeda.*

1. Describe the factors Haykel mentions in the emergence of Al-Qaeda.

**CHAPTER 2:** *The balance between intolerance and openness in the development of Muslim political movements, and how these positions are debated.*

1. What does Haykel suggest sparks intolerant versions of Islam?
2. Why have some Arab states mobilized against Al-Qaeda?

**CHAPTER 3:** *The efforts to reform the teaching of religion in Saudi Arabia while remaining true to the beliefs that contributed to the founding of the Saudi state.*

1. How has Al-Qaeda adapted the political discourse of anti-colonial movements?
2. How has the breakdown of religious hierarchy aided Al-Qaeda?

**CHAPTER 4:** *The critical terms that emerge from a study of modern political movements in the Muslim world: Islamists, Salafi, Wahhabi, and jihadi.*

1. How do these different categories overlap? Give an example.

**CHAPTER 5:** *The two dominant communities within Islam – Sunni and Shi'a – and how they emerged from Muslim history.*

1. Describe the differences between Sunni and Shi'a.
2. What are the different attitudes towards Shi'a within Al-Qaeda?

**CHAPTER 6:** *Haykel argues that Al-Qaeda and other Islamist movements are focused primarily on winning power within Muslim countries and gaining support as popular movements.*

1. How do attacks on Western powers figure into radical Islamists efforts to gain power and spread radicalism?

## Key Figures and Vocabulary

*Definitions have been provided by the speaker*

### Islamism

An ideology that advocates the subordination of politics to Islamic principles and values.

### Muslim Brotherhood

An Egyptian, anti-colonial movement that started in 1928, and which has become transnational with branches throughout the world. It calls for the establishment of Islamic law in all aspects of life at the individual, family, and communal levels, including state politics.

### Salafism

An ideology that adheres to a literalist theology of Islam, and seeks to reform Muslim society through a return to the so-called purer beliefs and practices of the earliest generations of Muslims in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries CE.

### Wahhabism

Subset of Salafism - A puritanical reform movement dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century in central Arabia and which sought to cleanse, through violent means if necessary, beliefs and practices that it deemed to be un-Islamic accretions. A major focus of the movement's activities was the attack on the cult of dead saints and the practices associated with the visit to their graves that had developed in the Muslim world.

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2. Describe the concept of “privatizing violence.”

CHAPTER 7: *The prospects of Al-Qaeda and the future of jihadi strategies of conflicts with the US.*

1. Why was the war in Iraq once seen as beneficial to Al-Qaeda, and why did that change?
2. How does Haykel view the future of Al-Qaeda?

### Questions for Further Discussion

1. Describe Saudi Arabia’s strategy in distancing itself from Al-Qaeda’s views. Are there problems in implementing this strategy?
2. What are the factors that mark radical Islamist groups as transnational?
3. Two radical trends combined in the creation of Al-Qaeda: one coming from Egypt, and the other from Saudi Arabia. Describe the historical background of these trends and how they came together.

### Recommended Resources

*Recommendations have been provided by the speaker*

El-Affendi, Abdelwahab. *Who Needs an Islamic State?* (Malaysia Think Tank London; 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2008)

Sivan, Emmanuel. *Radical Islam: Medieval Theology and Modern Politics.* (Yale University Press, 1985)

Gerges, Fawaz. *The Far Enemy: Why Jihad Went Global.* (Cambridge University Press, 2005)

Enayat, Hamid. *Modern Islamic Political Thought.* (Macmillan Press Ltd., 1982)

Roy, Olivier. *The Failure of Political Islam.* (Harvard University Press, 1998)

Eickelman, Dale and Piscatori, James. *Muslim Politics.* (Princeton University Press, 1996)

Mottahedeh, Roy. *The Mantle of the Prophet: Religion and Politics in Iran.* (Oneworld Publications, 2000)

### Key Figures and Vocabulary (continued)

#### Jihadi

Muslim who engages in armed struggle in defense of Islam. This can include attacks on fellow Muslims, including government heads deemed to have abandoned the true teachings of the religion.

#### Hezbollah

An Islamist Shi’a movement based in Lebanon that adheres to the doctrine of the Guardianship of the Jurist, which was developed by the Iranian revolutionary cleric, Ayatollah Khomeini.