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Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Introduction -- 1 THE RADICAL CRITIQUE OF ISLAM -- The Islamist View of Life as a Perennial Battle -- On the Doctrine of the Muslim Brothers (1940s) -- Islam Is Not a Religion of Pacifists (1942) -- Paving the Way (1955) -- Speech at Feyziyeh Theological School (August 24, 1979) -- On the Nature of the Islamic State (September 8, 1979) -- Suicide Operations Are Legitimate Defense (April 8, 1997) -- Speech to Organization of Islamic Countries Meeting (December 9, 1997) -- Fatwa on the Taliban (November 29, 2000) -- 2 THE REVOLUTIONARIES -- The Importance of Afghanistan for the Islamist Revolution (January 2002) -- Program (February 1985) -- Charter (August 1988) -- The Letter of Demands to the King of Saudi Arabia (April 1992) -- Abdullah Azzam, the Struggling Sheikh (July 1996) -- Interview with Umar Abd al-Rahman (April 1997) -- The Islamic State in Egypt Is Approaching (April 1997) -- On the Islamist Revolution in Egypt (January 2002) -- Interview with Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdissy (December 1997) -- Interview with Mullah Ma'soum Afghani (April 1997) -- 3 AMERICAN POLICY AND ANTI-AMERICANISM -- The Truth about U.S. Middle East Policy -- The United

States Will Not Intervene Militarily (November 7, 1979) -- No Room for Leniency (November 12, 1979) -- Memo to President Jimmy Carter on Soviet Intervention in Afghanistan (December 26, 1979) -- State of the Union Address January 23, 1980) -- Speech to Syrian Soldiers (October 1, 1981) -- U.S. Policy Views Mideast as "U.S. Possession" (February 16, 1985) -- On U.S. Hostages (February 1987) -- On U.S. Policy (February 17, 1987) -- On U.S. Hostages (February 1987) -- A Strategy for the Arab World (February 24, 1990) -- Indictment against the Khobar Tower Bombers of June 1996 (June 21, 2001) -- Second Speech to Organization of Islamic Countries Meeting (December 9, 1997). The New Barbarism (December 2, 1998) -- Letter to President Bill Clinton (December 3, 1998) -- An Anti-American Sermon (October 2000) -- Why Attack America (January 2002) -- 4 USAMA BIN LADIN AND HIS MOVEMENT -- Declaration of War (August 1996) -- Interview with Usama bin Ladin (October 1996) -- Statement: Jihad against Jews and Crusaders (February 23, 1998) -- Interview with Usama bin Ladin (December 1998) -- Encyclopedia of the Afghan Jihad: Training Manual (December 1999) -- Testimony of Jamal Ahmad al-Fadl (February 6-7, 2001) -- Testimony of Ahmad Ressam (July 3-5, 2001) -- Al-Qa'ida Recruitment Video (2000) -- 5 AL-QA'IDA'S WAR ON AMERICA -- FBI Most Wanted (October 10, 2001) -- Letter to al-Qa'ida Cell (August 1997) -- Report on the Bomb Attacks in Kenya and Tanzania (January 1999) -- Testimony of Ali A. Muhammad (October 21, 2000) -- Testimony of John Michael Anticev (February 27-28, 2001) -- Responsibility for the Terrorist Atrocities in the United States, September 11, 2001 (October 4, 2001) -- Executive Order: Sanctions on the Afghan Taliban (July 6, 1999) -- Resolution 1267 (October 15, 1999) -- Testimony on the Taliban (July 20, 2000) -- Testimony of Ahmad Ressam (July 3-5, 2001) -- Worldwide Threat 2001: National Security in a Changing World (February 7, 2001) -- 6 SEPTEMBER 11, AL-QA'IDA, AND THE TALIBAN -- Suicide Note (September 18, 2001) -- Responsibility for the Terrorist Atrocities in the United States, September 11, 2001 (October 4, 2001) -- The Hijackers of September 11 (September 27, 2001) -- Videotape of a Private Meeting (December 13, 2001) -- Interview with Mullah Umar Muhammad (September 21, 2001) -- Broadcast by Usama bin Ladin (October 7, 2001) -- Al-Qa'ida Statement (October 10, 2001) -- Al-Qa'ida Statement (October 13, 2001) -- Broadcast by Usama bin Ladin (November 3, 2001). Dawn Interview with Usama bin Ladin (November 10, 2001) -- Interview with Usama bin Ladin (December 27, 2001) -- Indictment against Zacarias Moussaoui (December 2001) -- September 11 as a Great Success (February 27, 2002) -- Pre-Attack Videotape (Summer 2001) -- Post-Attack Videotape (Fall 2001) -- 7 MIDDLE EAST REACTION TO SEPTEMBER 11 -- Broadcast by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (September 12, 2001) -- A Blow from Within (September 13, 2001) -- The American Government Had Contaminated My Humanity (September 15, 2001) -- Interview with Ayman al-Zawahiri (October 7, 2001) -- To Anthrax (November 1, 2001) -- Is Usama bin Ladin the Culprit? Has World War III Started? (September 14, 2001) -- We Would Help the United States If It Would Help Us (September 17, 2001) -- A Little Justice to Help Uproot Terrorism (September 21, 2001) -- Open Letter to President George W. Bush (October 19, 2001) -- Egypt Is a Sovereign State (October 19, 2001) -- Address to the UN General Assembly (November 10, 2001) -- Editorial in Ha'aretz (September 12, 2001) -- September 11 and Islamic Sharia (September 14, 2001) -- After Afghanistan: Liberating Islam (September 17, 2001) -- Envy and Hate (September 22, 2001) -- Sharon Is a Terrorist-And You? (November 3, 2001) -- The Fight against Terrorism Must Begin with Curricular,

Educational, and Media Reform in the Arab World (November 29, 2001) -- 8 SEPTEMBER 11 AND THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM -- Address to the Nation (September 11, 2001) -- Address to Joint Session of Congress (September 20, 2001) -- Address to the Nation (October 7, 2001) -- Address to the UN General Assembly (November 10, 2001) -- Speech to the Labor Party Conference (October 1, 2001) -- Executive Order on Blocking Terrorist Financing (September 24, 2001) -- Executive Order on Establishing the Office of Homeland Security (October 8, 2001).

Executive Order on Detention, Treatment, and Trial of Certain Non-Citizens in the War against Terrorism (November 13, 2001) -- Analysis of U.S. Counterterrorism Legislation (October 25, 2001) -- Resolution 1373 (September 28, 2001) -- Appendix: Chronology of Middle East-Connected Terrorism against Americans -- Glossary of Terms -- A -- D -- E -- F -- H -- I -- J -- K -- L -- M -- Q -- S -- Glossary of Names -- A -- F -- G -- H -- K -- M -- N -- Q -- S -- T -- W -- Index -- A -- B -- C -- D -- E -- F -- G -- H -- I -- J -- K -- L -- M -- N -- O -- P -- Q -- R -- S -- T -- U -- V -- W -- Y -- Z.

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## Sommario/riassunto

After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, a stunned public asked: How could this happen? Why did the attackers do what they did? What did they hope to accomplish? This wasn't the first battle in a conflict that has included bombings of U.S. embassies and planes, the Iran hostage crisis, and kidnappings or shootings of American citizens. This unique volume sets out to answer these questions using the unfiltered words of the terrorists themselves. Over many decades, radical forces in the Middle East have changed and evolved, yet their basic outlook and anti-Western views have remained remarkably consistent. Barry Rubin and Judith Colp Rubin have assembled nearly one hundred key documents, charting the evolution of radical Middle East movements, their anti-Americanism, and Western policy response. The buildup to the battle between a world superpower and Middle East revolutionaries is brought dramatically to life. Among the documents included are the charters of such organizations as Hizballah, Hamas, and World Islamic Front; speeches by Syrian president Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi president Saddam Hussein; al-Qa'ida recruitment materials; and terrorist training manuals. The book also shows and analyzes the often conflicting and deeply conflicted responses to September 11 by journalists, clerics, and activists in the Arab world. Supplemented by an annotated chronology, a glossary of terms, and sections that put each selection in context, this comprehensive reference serves not only as essential historical background to the ongoing aftermath of the September 11 attacks, but more generally as an invaluable framework for understanding a long-term, continuing conflict that has caused many crises for the United States.

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