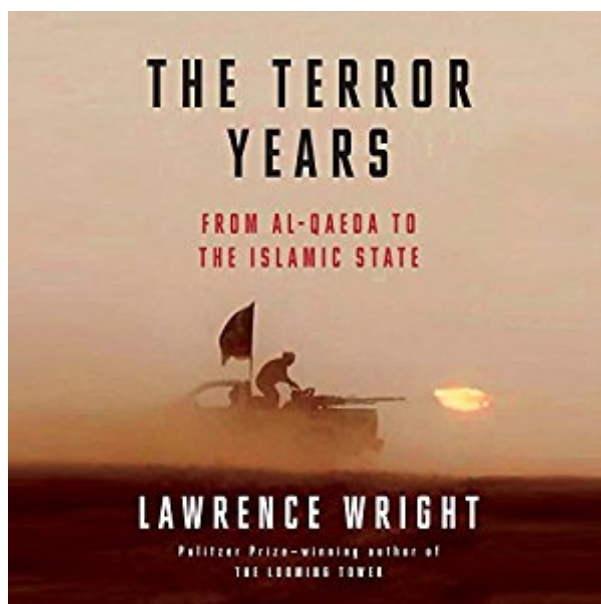


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# The Terror Years: From Al-Qaeda To The Islamic State



## Synopsis

Ten powerful pieces first published in The New Yorker recall the path terror in the Middle East has taken from the rise of al-Qaeda in the 1990s to the recent beheadings of reporters and aid workers by ISIS. With the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Looming Tower*, Lawrence Wright became generally acknowledged as one of our major journalists writing on terrorism in the Middle East. This collection draws on several articles he wrote while researching that book, as well as many that he's written since, following where and how al-Qaeda and its core cult-like beliefs have morphed and spread. They include an indelible impression of Saudi Arabia, a kingdom of silence under the control of the religious police; the Syrian film industry, then compliant at the edges but already exuding a feeling of the barely masked fury that erupted into civil war; and the 2006-11 Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Gaza, a study in disparate values of human lives. Others continue to look into al-Qaeda as it forms a master plan for its future, experiences a rebellion from within the organization, and spins off a growing web of terror in the world. The American response is covered in profiles of two FBI agents and a chief of the CIA. It ends with the recent devastating piece about the capture and beheading by ISIS of four American journalists and aid workers, and how our government failed to handle the situation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After reading the novel, *BREACH* by Marie Dunn, I wanted to read a nonfiction account of the background issues behind ISIS. Wright gives chilling details and insights into terrorist networks. This book links together his earlier works in a fascinating read.

Great writer. Well researched and explained by someone who has spent a lot of time in the middle east meeting, discussing and working with the people. No sound bites here.

I'm not a Middle East expert but I find this book powerful and well written! I know that just a book is not enough to comprehend such complex topic, but it is a good start. Recommended!

Charles Hill

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