



The Black Banners: The Inside Story of 9/11 and the War Against al-Qaeda

By Ali Soufan

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The Black Banners: The Inside Story of 9/11 and the War Against al-Qaeda
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A book that will change the way we think about al-Qaeda, intelligence, and the events that forever changed America.

On September 11, 2001, FBI Special Agent Ali H. Soufan was handed a secret file. Had he received it months earlier?when it was requested?the attacks on New York and Washington could have been prevented. During his time on the front lines, Soufan helped thwart plots around the world and elicited some of the most important confessions from terrorists in the war against al-Qaeda?without laying so much as a hand on them. Most of these stories have never been reported before, and never by anyone with such intimate firsthand knowledge.

This narrative account of America's successes and failures against al-Qaeda is essential to an understanding of the terrorist group. We are taken into hideouts and interrogation rooms. We have a ringside seat at bin Laden's personal celebration of the 9/11 bombings. Such riveting details show us not only how terrorists think and operate but also how they can be beaten and brought to justice. 16 pages of black-and-white illustrations

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Editorial Review

Review

"one of the most valuable and detailed accounts of its subject to appear in the past decade." -- The Economist

"an absorbing account of America's fightback after 9/11, full of revealing or amusing details ... cheering as well as fascinating, because it reveals the dedication of those who defend us, as well as the weird frailties of those who try to kill us." -- The Sunday Times

"Most Americans first heard of FBI agent Ali H. Soufan in the spring of 2009. That's when he testified from behind a black curtain in the Senate Judiciary Committee's hearing room ... The testimony was explosive ... Now Soufan has fired another salvo ... detailed descriptions of what unfolded behind the closed doors of the world's interrogation rooms ... Soufan's story provides a new and important window on America's battle with al-Qaeda." -- Washington Post

"To those inside the U.S. government Soufan has long been something of a legend. He conducted the most effective and fruitful interrogations of Al Qaeda suspects during the war on terrorism, and save for some inexplicable failures by the CIA, he and his team might well have prevented 9/11. Soufan has since left the FBI and written a gripping account of his experiences, brimming with details about Al Qaeda and its historical development." -- Harpers Magazine

"It is packed with facts that rarely, if ever, have appeared in the media; and it is written in an anecdotal style reminiscent of a Tom Clancy espionage thriller that is easy and enjoyable to read." - Middle East Policy Council

From the Back Cover

"Superb. An education. And the best book on al Qaeda out there, bar none." - Robert Baer, former CIA official and author of *See No Evil*, *Sleeping with the Devil*, and *The Devil We Know*.

"Unfortunately, we only have one Ali Soufan. Had American intelligence listened to him, 9/11 might never have happened. No one did more to unravel the story of al-Qaeda than Ali Soufan. Thankfully, he's left another legacy in this book. Anyone who wants to know what really happened should read it. It's an inspiring but wrenching story told from the heart of a great American." - Lawrence Wright, author of *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*

About the Author

Ali H. Soufan, a former FBI special agent, served on the front lines against al-Qaeda and gained an international reputation as a top counterterrorism operative and interrogator. He has been profiled in *The New Yorker* and featured in books, newspaper articles, and documentaries around the globe.

He has received numerous awards and commendations for his counter-terrorism work. These include the Director of the FBI's Award for Excellence in Investigation, the Respect for Law Enforcement Award for "relentless pursuit of truth and bringing terrorist subjects before the bar of justice," and a commendation from the U.S. Department of Defense that labeled him "an important weapon in the ongoing war on terrorism."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Hyacinth Mills:

The Black Banners: The Inside Story of 9/11 and the War Against al-Qaeda can be one of your starter books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into delight arrangement in writing The Black Banners: The Inside Story of 9/11 and the War Against al-Qaeda yet doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information may drawn you into new stage of crucial contemplating.

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Carl Johnson:

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