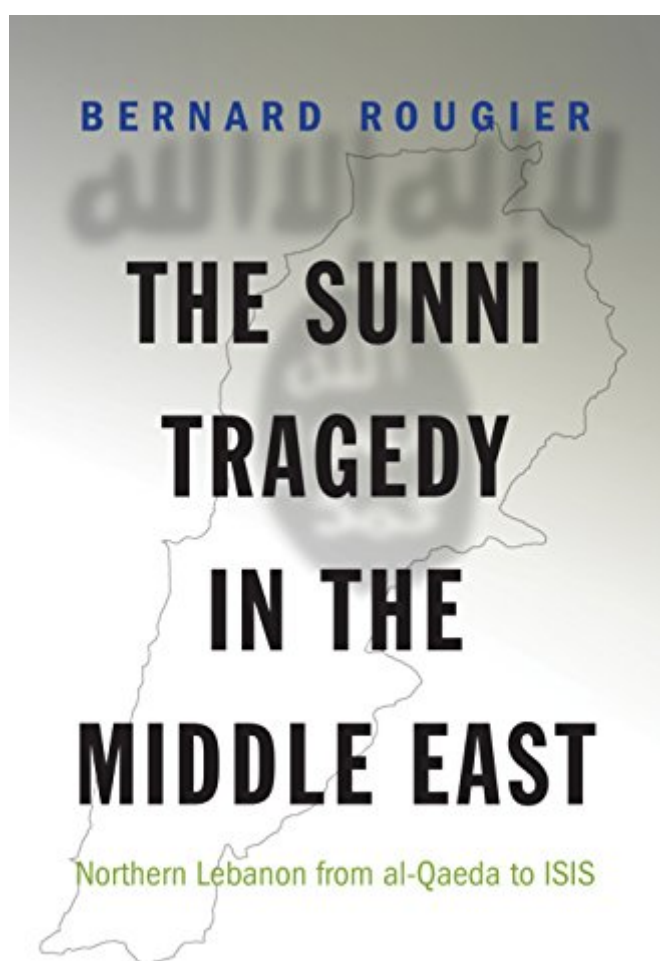


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The Sunni Tragedy In The Middle East: Northern Lebanon From Al-Qaeda To ISIS (Princeton Studies In Muslim Politics)



Synopsis

Northern Lebanon is a land in turmoil. Long under the sway of the Assad regime in Syria, it is now a magnet for Sunni Muslim jihadists inspired by anti-Western and anti-Shi'a worldviews. The Sunni Tragedy in the Middle East describes in harrowing detail the struggle led by an active minority of jihadist militants, some claiming allegiance to ISIS, to seize control of Islam and impose its rule over the region's Sunni Arab population. Bernard Rougier introduces us to men with links to the mujahidin in Afghanistan, the Sunni resistance in Iraq, al-Qaeda, and ISIS. He describes how they aspire to replace North Lebanon's Sunni elites, who have been attacked and discredited by neighboring powers and jihadists alike, and explains how they have successfully positioned themselves as the local Sunni population's most credible defender against powerful external enemies such as Iran and the Shi'a militia group Hezbollah. He sheds new light on the methods and actions of the jihadists, their internal debates, and their evolving political agenda over the past decade. This riveting book is based on more than a decade of research, more than one hundred in-depth interviews with players at all levels, and Rougier's extraordinary access to original source material. Written by one of the world's leading experts on jihadism, The Sunni Tragedy in the Middle East provides timely insight into the social, political, and religious life of this dangerous and strategically critical region of the Middle East.

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Customer Reviews

A French scholar in Middle Eastern studies, I had the pleasure to discover the incredible talent of Prof. Bernard Rougier as soon as in 2004, when he first published "Le Jihad au quotidien" ("Everyday Jihad" in English, published with Harvard University Press). I was amazed then by the quality of his fieldwork, of his analysis and the relevance of his conclusions for a deep, solid understanding of Sunni jihadism in the Levant. Rougier, a perfect arabic-speaking scholar who got his PhD in political science at the very prestigious university of Sciences Po in Paris, had spent years in Lebanon in Palestinian camps, courageously interviewing jihadists that no other person of the profession would ever dare to approach. When I heard Rougier published a second book a few years later, I was enthusiastic and skeptical at the same time. Would he be able to do as well as with the first book? I have to admit it. He did even better. "The Sunni Tragedy" shall remain Rougier's life masterpiece. No wonder the great John Waterbury wrote such an enthusiastic review of the book in Foreign Affairs. A thorough and complete presentation of the whole Sunni jihadist networks spreading from northern Lebanon to the rest of the region, a clever modelization of the pillars of contemporary jihadism, the book shows clearly that Rougier remains the one and only real expert of the various groups involved, the reference anyone interested in the subject cannot do without.

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