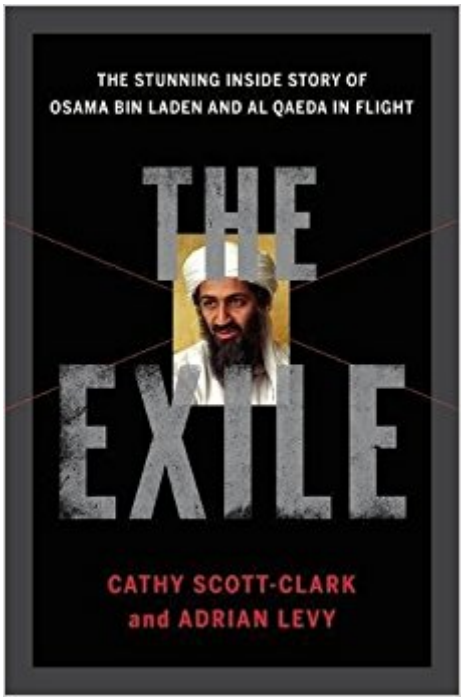
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The Exile: The Stunning Inside Story Of Osama Bin Laden And Al Qaeda In Flight



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Synopsis

Startling and scandalous, this is an intimate insider’s story of Osama bin Laden’s retinue in the ten years after 9/11, a family in flight and at war.From September 11, 2001 to May 2, 2011, Osama Bin Laden evaded intelligence services and special forces units, drones and hunter killer squads. The Exile tells the extraordinary inside story of that decade through the eyes of those who witnessed it: bin Laden’s four wives and many children, his deputies and military strategists, his spiritual advisor, the CIA, Pakistan’s ISI, and many others who have never before told their stories.Investigative journalists Cathy Scott-Clark and Adrian Levy gained unique access to Osama bin Laden’s inner circle, and they recount the flight of Al Qaeda’s forces and bin Laden’s innocent family members, the gradual formation of ISIS by bin Laden’s lieutenants, and bin Laden’s rising paranoia and eroding control over his organization. They also reveal that the Bush White House knew the whereabouts of bin Laden’s family and Al Qaeda’s military and religious leaders, but rejected opportunities to capture them, pursuing war in the Persian Gulf instead, and offer insights into how Al Qaeda will attempt to regenerate itself in the coming years.While we think we know what happened in Abbottabad on May 2, 2011, we know little about the wilderness years that led to that shocking event. As authoritative in its scope and detail as it is propuslively readable, The Exile is a landmark work of investigation and reporting.

Book Information

Hardcover: 640 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA (May 23, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1620409844

ISBN-13: 978-1620409848

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 2 x 240 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #72,137 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Asia > India & South Asia #16 inÃ Â Books > History > Asia > Central Asia #43 inÃ Â Books > History > Asia > India

Customer Reviews

"[Scott-Clark and Levy] set out to do what few had done before in the West: to see the September 2001 terror attacks and their aftermath from the other side. They traveled widely in the region,

listened intently, interviewed aggressively, read newly released accounts and government documents deeply (and wrote lengthily). The result is a breathtaking tale." - Boston Globe"Remarkable . . . They have produced the best account yet of what happened to al-Qaida after 9/11: it is an astonishingly good piece of work." - Guardian"This book is a tour de force and the first detailed account told by al-Qaeda members themselves, making good use of the diaries of Abu Zubaydah, the captured al-Qaeda facilitator, as well as extensive interviews with one of its religious thinkers . . . It tells us lots of things we knew, but in far more detail." - Sunday Times"[Scott-Clark and LevyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s] latest, The Exile: The Flight of Osama bin Laden, is perhaps their best yet . . . The book fills in many important gaps in our knowledge of al-Qaida . . . a gripping inside account." - Observer"Remarkable . . . The bookÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fascinating perspective exposes layers of human complexity in individuals who are often shrouded by intrigue, and brings nuance to the general Western understanding of jihadi groups. This extensively researched, eminently readable work greatly enhances public knowledge of these dramatic years and will be welcomed by specialists and general readers alike." - Starred Review, Publishers Weekly"A tour de force of investigative research." - Kirkus Reviews"[A] piece of outstanding journalistic bravery . . . the book has an impact and immediacy far stronger than much of the other literature on the subject." - Literary Review"What struck me more than anything else about The Exile is the phenomenal degree of intimacy that the co-authors Cathy Scott-Clark and Adrian Levy have achieved with bin Laden himself . . . By tracking down the myriad bin Laden family members, associates and al-Qaeda members that inhabit this huge tour-de-force of a read, the authors have brought the personality of bin Laden into a sharper focus than could ever have been imagined. The detail mustered is little short of incredible, and evidently the result of forensic research only the best of investigative journalists could dig out . . . ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s this feel of being there that makes The Exile such an exceptional account of those lost years when bin Laden and his family went to ground . . . Big it might be, but it is also a page-turner. There have been many books before on bin Laden and al-Qaeda, but this is one of the best. This is bin Laden the man. Above all itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a unique glimpse into darkest recesses of those caves in Tora Bora and the thinking of those that inhabited them while hiding from the world." - Glasgow Herald"[A] magnificent telling . . . The Exile is a truly impressive feat of journalism, both the closest we’re ever likely to come to a day-by-day account of Bin Laden’s life in those years and also an intensely gripping reading experience." - Christian Science Monitor"An astonishing work of scholarship and journalism." - Choice"The Exile is a remarkable achievement. Through years of research, investigative work, and interviews, the authors have artfully woven together a gripping account that reads like a thriller -- Al-Qaeda’s story from their perspective, with all the complexities

and nuances of a deeply disturbing chapter of our history, that continues to this day. The Exile is the shocking story behind the story. A must read." - Suroosh Alvi, co-founder of VICE"Based on meticulous and unique research, this riveting account of Osama bin Laden's last decade is the most important and revealing book about the al Qaeda leadership in years. The role of the Iranian and Pakistani 'deep states' in hiding bin Laden and his family is fascinating and disturbing." - Bruce Riedel, former CIA analyst and counter-terrorism expert, and adviser to four US Presidents"The most definitive account available of bin Laden's increasingly fraught existence in an over-crowded, ramshackle villa just a stone's throw from Pakistan's version of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point . . . No other publicly available source comes as close to The Exile in presenting this familiar story . . . The Exile is destined to become a classic." - Bruce Hoffman, War on the Rocks"The Exile is a tour de force of investigative journalism. Scott-Clark and Levy focus on the crucial but much ignored 'human factor' in Islamic extremism with great effect. Packed with new details and revelations, their astonishingly intimate account of the inner workings of Al Qaeda, and of the battle to counter its murderous campaign, will be a hugely valuable resource for specialists and general readers alike for years to come." - Jason Burke, author of AL-QAEDA, THE 9/11 WARS, and THE NEW THREAT

Cathy Scott-Clark and Adrian Levy are acclaimed investigative journalists, and the authors of several books, most recently The Siege: 58 Hours Inside the Taj Hotel. Their other books are The Meadow: Kashmir 1995-Where the Terror Began, Nuclear Deception: The Dangerous Relationship Between the United States and Pakistan, The Amber Room: The Fate of the World's Greatest Lost Treasure, and The Stone of Heaven: Unearthing the Secret History of Imperial Green Jade. For sixteen years they worked as foreign correspondents and investigative reporters for the Sunday Times and the Guardian. In 2009 the One World Trust named them British Journalists of the Year, and they won Foreign Correspondents of the Year in 2004. They co-produce documentaries that have been nominated at the Amnesty International Media Awards and longlisted at the BAFTAs. They live in London.

History that reads like a novel. Puts the present Mideast situation in perspective. Clarifies the origins and transmogrifications of Al Qaeda and ISIS - plus all the other participating factions. Shows how central Osama was till the end of his life. Surprising involvement of Iran. A must read for everyone who wants the inside story down to the last detail.

Poor binding job, the photo pages are a mess. Rookie job, poor quality control. Text is fine, perhaps publisher should consider another printer who knows how to do the job.

Well...if you get this, block out your day because you wonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t put it down.

Terrific historical account of Bin Laden and his band of terrorists. The author uses first hand interviews and many documents including those that was seized when Bin Laden was killed.

The Exile is stunning indeed. A fascinating book

Can’t believe I can’t zoom in on the map.

good

This was not an easy book to read. But at the end of it, I felt like I actually understood at least some of what happened during the last 15 years between the Muslim terrorist organizations and the West. I didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t like some of what I read, but it was certainly worth the effort to be exposed to it.=== The Good Stuff ===* Cathy Scott-Clark and Adrian Levy took on a monumental task. They attempt to explain the history behind Al Quaeda, the Taliban, and numerous other groups throughout the Muslim world. The book is very complete, well-referenced, and is a remarkable story of the struggles, both from the point of view of the US and its allies as well as the terrorist groups.* Parts of the book were very tough to read. Some of the actions of the US were, at the very least, disturbing. I wonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t get into whether they were justified, or appropriate, but it is somewhat disturbing to read of what was done in the pursuit of these terrorist groups. The authors donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t sensationalize this, but they do cover it in explicit detail. Equally disturbing are the actions of the terrorist groups in question, and again, these are presented in explicit detail. Some of this material is not for the faint-of-heart.* The book was excellent for giving some feel for the interwoven and complex relationships that are part of the story. Most of the organizations involved, whether they were state intelligence agencies, religious leaders, political figures or military leaders all seemed to have multiple, and often conflicting agendas. In short, a cut-throat game with absolutely no rules and even fewer morals.* At the end of the book, I had a better feeling for what has happened in the world. While I donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t in any way condone the actions of the terrorist groups, I did get a feel for the futility of their lives which caused some of their actions. And

even more importantly, I now understand why there are no simple answers to any of these problemsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦indeed even the questions are difficult to get a handle on.=== The Not-So-Good Stuff ===* While the book appears to be impeccably referenced and footnoted, it is hard to believe the detail of some of the material. And while most of the sensational material is referenced, I have no idea how to evaluate some of the reference. Is a ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“WikileaksÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• reference really a reliable source? I can appreciate that this might be the only source of some of this material, I just do not know how to evaluate its robustness.* The authors definitely have a viewpoint, and it sometimes intrudes into the narrative. For example, they believe that the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“enhanced interrogationÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• techniques used by the CIA and its allies were totally ineffective and even counterproductive. They include specific examples to support their case, but I have no way of knowing if this is a complete representation of the success or just isolated examples.* The biggest problem I had was that the book is presented in chronological order. This requires the reader to keep a large number of ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“open threadsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• going simultaneously. When you add in a large number of named characters, all with very similar and foreign names, keeping track of what is going on can be quite a challenge. The authors include a ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“whoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s whoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• at the beginning, and I ended up printing that out and keeping it with me as I read. Still, it took quite a bit of work to keep the characters straight.* There could have been a little more analysis to help us novice historians. For example, many of the actions of the Iranians just did not make much sense to me-they accepted a large number of Al Quaeda militants, jailed/housed them, and then seemed to not know what to do with them. I still donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t understand the logic behind their actions-especially as the authors hint that Iran helped the US in some of its pursuits.=== Summary ===This was a hard book to read. The writing style is fine, and it is not written in the stuffy, academic style, nor is it a government report. But the subject matter is very complex, many of the characters have similar names, and the motivations and goals of the players are obscure and difficult to decode.That being said, I ended up enjoying the book, and finding it well worth the time to read slowly and carefully. It took me about a week to read this book, a long time for me, and I will probably re-read it to see if any more of the material gels.If you are not that interested in the subject matter, or are unwilling to spend some time digesting the material, you will end up giving up on the book. But if you put in the time, it is a worthwhile investment=== Disclaimer ===I was able to read an advance copy of the book through the courtesy of the publisher and NetGalley.

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