

## **South Asian Studies**

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## **BOOK REVIEW**

*The Confrontation: Winning the War against Future Jihad*

**Walid Phares**

*Palgrave Macmillan, New York. 2008*

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### **Introduction**

The present book is a thought provoking work on the global war against terror. The author pleads that as the Jihadist movement has attained global implications, so it has turned more complex, thus posing a threat to international security. It requires a clear perspective and comprehensive strategies to win the war on terror. This excellent work by Walid Phares, who has been Middle East expert and Fox News Terrorism analyst, add to the ongoing debate on the strategies and approaches to countering the menace of terrorism on a global scale. In this study, the writers offers a superb account of cultural and historical forces leading to the wave of rising terror and 9/11 catastrophe. He visualizes and provides a sketch of the possible imminent worldwide clashes and devises a clear-cut roadmap for countering the growing terror.

He discuss the multiple strategies, which have been used in various cases including Iraq, Lebanon, Taliban phenomena and Iran to counter the increasing trend to terrorism globally. The author foresees the imminent surge of this Jihadist movement in the free world. Since he pleads that this imminent rise in global terrorism will have serious consequences for the free democratic world, so he urges that international and national institutions should co-ordinates their efforts jointly in order to forest all this danger successfully. This excellent work also suggests the way forward for managing this growing threat of global terrorism in a co-ordinated and effective manner. The study concludes on an optimistic note.

Though it explores all the important cases of Jihadist terror and what strategies were adopted to counter these cases including Lebanon, Iraq, Taliban and Iraq by the international partners led by US, yet it also points out where they lacked in their strategies and co-ordination. He is of the view that they lacked joint and co-ordinated efforts to counter global terror. That is why; he urges that there is a dire need to streamline those joint efforts by the stakeholders at national and

international levels. He sees the global strategies of the terrorists as a potent threat to democracies.

He suggests the ways and means through which the international community may revive a world that is safe for free democratic societies. He provides thought-provoking plans to counter this threat, increase awareness and frame policies in democracies to eliminate fear, which comes as a result of this growing terror.

He points toward one of the significant challenges of today, which is regarding how to respond to terrorism and safeguard freedom in this century. He offers a critical analysis and valuable policy recommendations, which have further triggered the global debate toward finding a secure future for the free world and democratic societies.

He has commented on and analyzed the nature of jihadist terror, its various shades and the ideology behind the terror campaigns. He pleads that fighting this terror is not only a tactical or military tussle, but more of an ideological battle, which has attained global proportions. The most distinctive feature of this excellent work is the valuable policy recommendations offered to counter the growing threat of jihadist terror worldwide.