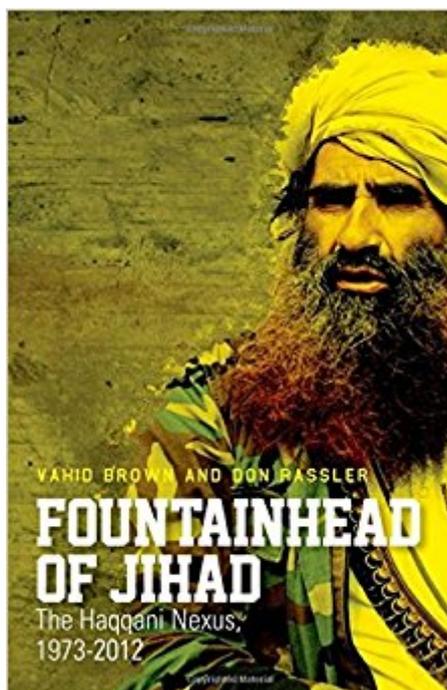


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# Fountainhead Of Jihad: The Haqqani Nexus, 1973-2012



## Synopsis

Drawing upon a wealth of previously unresearched primary sources in many languages, the authors shed much new light on a group frequently described as the most lethal actor in the current Afghan insurgency, and shown here to have been for decades at the centre of a nexus of transnational Islamist militancy, fostering the development of jihadi organisations from Southeast Asia to East Africa. Addressing the abundant new evidence documenting the Haqqani network's pivotal role in the birth and evolution of the global jihadi movement, the book also represents a significant advance in our knowledge of the history of al-Qaeda, fundamentally altering the picture painted by the existing literature on the subject.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A fascinatingly detailed new book ... Brown and Rassler bring out the deep rootedness of the Haqqanis in the history and culture of this region, on both sides of a Durand Line which as far as the locals are concerned has always been largely theoretical." --Anatol Lieven, *New York Review of Books*"The definitive account of the rise of the most effective of the insurgent groups now waging war along the Afghan-Pakistan border, which should come as no surprise to those familiar with the work of its authors." --Peter Bergen, author of *Manhunt: The Ten-Year Search for bin Laden, from 9/11 to Abbottabad*"Brings a fresh perspective and a wealth of new information on the history of the wars in Afghanistan, and that of al-Qaeda. Through meticulous research on hard-to-get primary sources, it traces the history of one of the fiercest foes of the Western forces in Afghanistan today. I would call it the definitive study of the Haqqani network, were it not for the fact that the Haqqanis will

continue to play a crucial role in the region for years to come."--Thomas Hegghammer, Senior Research Fellow, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment; author of *The Meccan Rebellion and Jihad in Saudi Arabia* "Any college-level collection strong in analyzing Islamic terrorism's roots must have this key survey." --*The Bookwatch*"Compelling ... *Fountainhead of Jihad* suggests we will have to rethink our understanding of the Haqqani network, its motivation and its worldview at a crucial time, just as international forces withdraw and pressure for peace talks intensifies. ... In placing the Haqqani network not so much at the centre of the extremist nexus but at its origin, this book makes an important contribution to our understanding of Afghan and Pakistani militant groups. And it has obvious implications for the terms of any eventual peace settlement, which could well see the Haqqanis taking control of its south-eastern heartland." -- Rob Crilly, *The Daily Telegraph*"Brown and Ressler have undertaken an extraordinary level of research into a huge range of sources ... should be required reading for anyone involved in the development of security policy for the area ... particularly those on both sides of the Atlantic. ... the conclusion paints a chilling picture of the Haqqani Network as an increasing source of support and training for terrorists planning operations in the rest of the world, and urges that considerably more attention be paid to measures to deal with the threat." -- *Asian Affairs*"...an extraordinary book, not only because it clearly defines a grave threat to regional and international security, but also because it serves as an example of how analysis of unclassified sources can impart understanding of complex threats, enemies and adversaries ... a must-read for anyone interested in developing a deeper understanding of the grave security threats emanating from the Afghanistan Pakistan frontier." *Survival*, The International Institute for Strategic Studies"...provides substantive indications of the group's future evolution, its ideological orientation, and importantly, its proclivity for peace." -- *Contemporary South Asia*

*Fountainhead of Jihad* is the definitive account of the rise of the most effective of the insurgent groups now waging war along the Afghan-Pakistan border, which should come as no surprise to those familiar with the work of its authors. (Peter Bergen, author of *Manhunt: The Ten-Year Search for bin Laden, from 9/11 to Abbottabad*) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is actually the first time that I've reviewed a book on , and I just want to say that this book is so good that I HAD to rate it five stars. This is the first authoritative book that I've seen on not just the Haqqanis, but really the region as a whole. Books too often try to go for popular appeal by focusing in on the more famous jihadists like bin Laden, but Brown and Ressler cut straight to the point and

go for some of the real power brokers. Reading this book will dispel myths, enlighten, and overthrow the standard narrative of just what happened in Afghanistan in the years between the Soviet Invasion and September 11, while also providing an overwhelming array of evidence to support the authors' views. Well written, well researched, and well argued, the Fountainhead of Jihad should be mandatory reading for anyone seeking knowledge or insight into terrorism, Afghanistan, or the War on Terror.

An engrossing read of what is, without a doubt, the definitive volume on the Haqqani Network. In addition, the extensive chapter notes and bibliography point to everything of substance (as of the date of publication) in print and online on the subject. The authors' detailed progression from local, to regional, and then global influences and impacts clearly illustrate in practical terms the title characterizations of 'fountainhead of jihad' and 'nexus' in the context of the Haqqani Network. Beyond that, the book truly illustrates the Haqqani Network's 'centrality' - across the entire spectrum of the term's meaning in SNA - with regard to local, regional, and global jihadi insurgent and terror organizations. Given our pending withdrawal from Afghanistan at the end of the year, this book is a must-read for anyone working the country/region professionally in the intelligence or policy communities.

A must-read for anyone who has or will spend time in Afghanistan.

This book is in our J-2 library in Afghanistan and while I have not discussed it with others, believe it is well-regarded. For me it accomplishes something I have not seen elsewhere: it explains the Haqqani, the second most violent and largest group after the Taliban, and it does so concisely. What I particularly appreciate about this book is the coherent manner in which it examines the value propositions that have positioned Haqqani today at the local, regional, and global levels. The author's credit Haqqani's emergence in the early days to two value propositions: first, the offering of safehaven in Waziristan; and second, the ability to deliver violence on order for the Pakistani military and ISI. The authors conclude that Haqqani displaced Hezb-i-Islami (HIA/HIG) because the Haqqani have had and still have a superior savvy of tribal politics which in turn led to their earning a larger share of the CIA money passed through the ISA by CIA. Above all the authors credit the Haqqani with being able to manage a nuanced balancing act across borders and interests. Here is the meat, summary notes for those without the time to absorb this excellent book directly: LOCAL Value Propositions  
Centers of religious instruction  
Centers for military training  
Hub for Taliban cohesiveness

and extension of the brand Trusted supporting partner for Taliban effect and reach Skilled manager of local relationships to assure logistics reliability Trusted mediator REGIONAL Value Propositions Spoiler and kinetic signaling tool Diplomatic "office" to shape militancy and influence local commanders Platform to shape Afghan political landscape GLOBAL Value Propositions Operational access and local partnering Enabling media and promotion of Al Qaeda relevance to Afghan jihad Information Operations master of the art:-- borrowed footage-- cross promotions-- guest appearances-- Martyrdom biographics-- Connections to jihadist media personalities Brotherhood and safehaven services, come as you are The book concludes with a nuanced view that I found absorbing. The book offers a model for evaluating personal, financial, ideological/religious, and circumstances cause and effect among non-state groups. The authors end with the observation that as Haqqani videos in Urdu begin to proliferate, this is a clue, and the question, what will it take to break the cycle? On this point I would refer to the other book I was able to skim through today (time in Afghanistan is counted in minutes, not hours, for personal browsing), *God's Terrorists: The Wahhabi Cult and the Hidden Roots of Modern Jihad*. I regret I could not give this book the time it merits, but in posting this quick review with my own notes for my own memory, I hope I am encouraging others to give it a good look. We simply do not do intelligence at the individual and sub-state level, still today, in part because we have a legacy system that was built to obsess on static state hard-targets. As I wrote years ago, we have a super highway between DC and Moscow, and several cadillacs that are fine for that highway, but worthless off the road. We need to melt them down and reconstitute a US intelligence community of thousands of jeeps, motorcycles, and bicycles, with a new multinational sharing mind-set. That's how I plan to spend my next 20 years. Learn more at Phi Beta Iota the Public Intelligence Blog. Semper Fidelis, Robert David STEELE Vivas THE NEW CRAFT OF INTELLIGENCE: Personal, Public, & Political

This work will soon become a critical source in any bibliography on the region. This book is a combination of deep, polyglot research, a savvy for understanding the political climates of both the U.S. and Central Asia, and superb writing. Glad I bought this, worth even the hb price.

No bibliography on the politics of the AfPak region is complete without this book. Exhaustively researched and draws from primary sources that no other English language work has accessed. An illuminating read and well worth the wait!

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