

ISLAMIC EXTREMISM IN EGYPT

Volume One

A sourcebook for researchers

**State Department cables describing the history and structure
of the Muslim Brotherhood, Islamic Jihad, Takfir Wal Hijra,
the Islamic Group and other extremist movements**

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THE ISLAMIC EXTREMISM IN EGYPT SOURCEBOOK

Al Qaeda sprang from a tangled web of extremist movements in Egypt during the 1980s. Its predecessor and related groups include the Muslim Brotherhood, Egyptian Islamic Jihad, Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman's Islamic Group and Takfir Wal Hijra.

The history and beliefs of these groups are outlined here in a series of informational State Department cables designed to provide an introduction and overview to the arcane political scene in Egypt. The cables span nearly 20 years of Egyptian politics, through May 2001, just months before the September 11 attacks changed the face of the world.

These documents are sometimes tantalizing, sometimes incomplete, but always fascinating. Most of the cables here are long, in-depth explorations, suitable for use in an academic setting. They provide a never-before-seen window into how the U.S. understood the burgeoning Islamic fundamentalist movement in Egypt, a movement that would soon spread its influence around the world. They also provide a great deal of detail of history and intelligence rarely accessible to Western readers.

Additional volumes will follow.

--- *J.M. Berger*

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