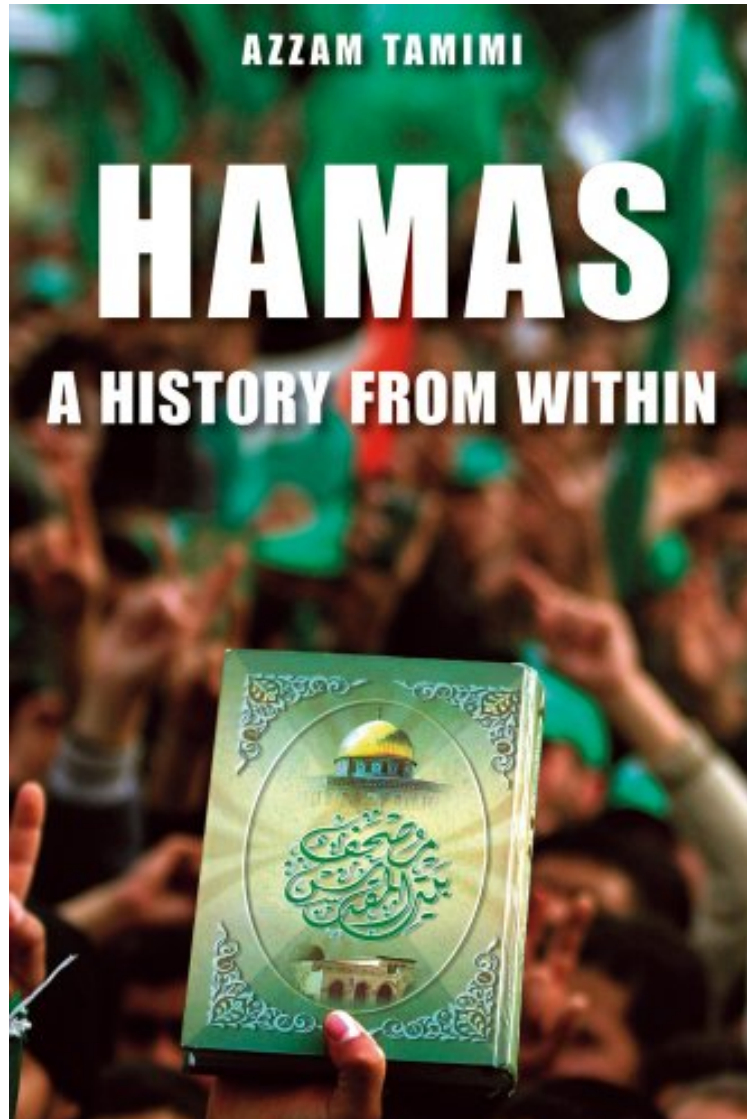


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Hamas: A History from Within

Azzam Tamimi

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Azzam Tamimi : Hamas: A History from Within before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hamas: A History from Within:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Hamas-A History on Its "Without"By Pen NameYou won't get much on Hamas's internal structure, but this book gives you everything you could ask for in Hamas's external politics. The book presents Hamas in a different light. The group is no longer a mere terrorist organization, but also a political movement with a stake in elections and a care for its people. Those close to Israeli political leaning will not find it satisfying; for those close to Palestinian politics: you'll find it to be a much needed and timely book.0 of 3 people

found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy Martin MoranWell researched, but over emphasis on names instead of their influence.2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Confirms terrorist principlesBy GderfThis book emphasizes Hamas' role as a social service organization while denying, or rather justifying, its propensity to violence. Purportedly seeking to correct western mis-impressions, it actually goes a long way to confirming the ideology of Hamas as a terrorist organization. On page 2 Tamini cites the mis-impression that it's extensive charitable and educational work to promote its foremost aim: driving Israel into the sea. On page 4 the book establishes principles of Hamas founder, Hassan al-Banna (1906-1949). His movement's long-term goals were, first to free the Islamic homeland from all foreign authority, and second, to establish an Islamic state within this Islamic homeland. We can be sure that the Islamic homeland includes Israel and the second goal exactly reflects that of the current ISIS organization. The text confirms the mis-impression of Hamas as a terrorist organization. Tamini goes on to excuse promotion of violence in the Hamas constitution, saying that it doesn't really reflect the organization's principles. It's like saying that we in the USA don't really live by our Constitution. The introduction refrains from mentioning the goal of jihad to spread Islam, though it's a Koranic obligation of every Muslim. The book includes appendices of articles whitewashing Hamas without the charter or internal statements of principle. Even in that selection the goal of liberation with the implied excuse for violence is evident. The book is very informative on origins from the Ikhwan branch of the Muslim Brotherhood as well as recent history and organization. It's a good history of Gaza from 1967 although claiming a booming economy prior to occupation. Triggering formation of Hamas is attributed to the accident in 1985 where Arabs used the Haram al-Sharif as a platform for throwing rocks on the people at the wailing wall. Tamini attributes that to Israeli military presence that showed up to stop the incident. I am continually enthralled by how cleverly Arab political theorists justify violence. Tamani appears to undercut Hanan Ashrawi, who is still more clever. Suicide bombing is justified as self defense. All violence in the book, including suicide bombings in markets and buses, is justified by Zionist action, leaving intact in the author's mind the premise of Hamas as a non-violent organization. Hamas replaced the PLO as the principle representation of the Palestinian populace when Arafat, at least publicly, recognized Israel's right to exist. Hamas expressed shock at the PLO peace initiative. The book is informative on the careers of Hamas leadership like Sheikh Ahmad Yassin and their relationship with other Arab polities like Egypt, Syria and particularly Jordan. The organization was suppressed for involvement in the attempt to overthrow the government of Jordan. Except for a mention of the Israeli high court and Israeli Arabs, the state of Israel is hardly mentioned. Jews are discussed only in connection with Zionism. It's not a credible omission from a Hamas purview. The Quran is not given as the basis of Muslim national politics and likely the Hamas constitution. There's an excessive attempt to follow principles of Western democracy especially emphasizing secularism. Separation of church and state is not credible in a book about a Muslim political establishment. Tamini claims that only a small fraction of Hamas funding is devoted to military operations. That's while citing successful military operations along with extreme conditions in Gaza. If the book is to be taken seriously, Hamas is a social service organization operating under democratic principles while eschewing violence. It can convince only Noam Chomsky and Jimmy Carter.

revised and updated edition/... a key resource in English for any serious assessment of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.-- Publishers Weekly (starred review)/One must understand Hamas in order to understand the current state of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Hamas: A History from Within provides an unrivaled account of Hamas's history, structure, and objectives, largely in its own words. A grassroots organization that commands wide respect among Palestinians for its incorruptibility, Hamas is divided into two main sections: one is responsible for establishing schools, hospitals, and religious institutions; the other for military action and terror attacks carried out by its armed underground wing the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades. Tamini's longtime relationships and extensive interviews with Hamas's leading members allow him to create a more intimate portrait of Hamas, in its own words and from its own members, than has yet been available in English.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . In this trenchant history spanning from the first days of the 1987 intifada to the sweeping democratic victory of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in the Palestinian elections of January 2006, London-based scholar Tamimi argues that seeing Hamas as merely another face of Al Qaeda obscures more than it elucidates. A successor to the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas comes out of a transnational Islamic reform movement that grew among Palestinians in the 1970s, largely in reaction to Arab nationalism's failure to champion the Palestinian cause. Increasingly, against a string of failed peace processes and the corruption and concessions of the PLO-led secular leadership, Hamas's popular support has rested heavily on its stance as a militant resistance movement wedded to the Palestinian dream of regaining pre-1948 Palestine, and as provider of essential social services. Tamimi draws extensively on the words of insiders in carefully charting and contextualizing the development of Hamas's highly resilient organization, shifting outlook and embrace of various tactics, including the offer of a truce with Israel and, most controversially, suicide bombing. Although mostly dispassionate and at times critical, this is a generally sympathetic analysis. It will be a key resource in English for any serious assessment of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. 'In this trenchant

history spanning from the first days of the 1987 intifada to the sweeping democratic victory of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in the Palestinian elections of January 2006, London-based scholar Tamimi argues that seeing Hamas as merely another face of Al Qaeda obscures more than it elucidates. A successor to the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas comes out of a transnational Islamic reform movement that grew among Palestinians in the 1970s, largely in reaction to Arab nationalism's failure to champion the Palestinian cause. Increasingly, against a string of failed peace processes and the corruption and concessions of the PLO-led secular leadership, Hamas's popular support has rested heavily on its stance as a militant resistance movement wedded to the Palestinian dream of regaining pre-1948 Palestine, and as provider of essential social services. Tamimi draws extensively on the words of insiders in carefully charting and contextualizing the development of Hamas's highly resilient organization, shifting outlook and embrace of various tactics, including the offer of a truce with Israel and, most controversially, suicide bombing. It will be a key resource in English for any serious assessment of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.'--Publishers Weekly (** review) 'An excellent history, deeply researched, the story is dramatic, and Tamimi tells it well... gives access to fascinating detail.'--Palestine News 'Tamimi's book is the most authoritative account yet published of the origins, rise and impact of Hamas.'--Abdel Bari Atwan, editor-in-chief, Al-Quds Al-Arabi 'Provides facts on Hamas' struggle in Palestine from real sources in the organisation.'--Malaysian National News Agency About the Author Azzam Tamimi is founder of the Institute of Islamic Political Thought in London and author of Rachid Ghannouchi: A Democrat within Islamism (2001).