Egyptian Islamic Group (IG)

- In some cases, Jihadist groups shared training and members with al Qaeda, but they had been emerging on their own before the Soviet-Afghan War
- On such group was the Egyptian Islamic Group (al Gama'at al Islamiyya or IG)
- Three interrelated factors prevalent in the rise of this group
  - 1981 assassination of Anwar Sadat
  - Failure of Arab nationalism
  - Decline of Arab socialism

Egyptian Islamic Group (IG) (cont.)

- Formed in early 1970s
- Instead of a centralized hierarchy, it operated in a loosely structured network spanning several Egyptian cities
- It also established foreign wings
  - Active in the U.S.
- Goal was to overthrow the Egyptian government and establish an Islamic state

Egyptian Islamic Group (IG) (cont.)

- Once led by Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman
- Connected to the 1993 World Trade Center bombings
- Also responsible for attacks on Egyptian security forces, Christians, and tourists
  - 1997 Luxor attack
Egyptian Islamic Group (IG) (cont.)
- IG declared ceasefire in 1997
- Led to factionalism
- Mustafa Hamza supported the ceasefire
- Raifa Taha Masa did not
- Hamza’s wing renewed the pledge for peace in 1999
- Masa continued to advocate violence
- Activity has been greatly reduced
  - IG renounced bloodshed in 2003

Egyptian Islamic Jihad (EIJ)
- Formed in 1980
  - Responsible for assassinating Sadat
  - Led by Ayman al Zawahiri, who disagreed with IG tactics/philosophy
  - Believed the government should be the sole target of the terrorist campaign
    - Groups could defeat their own governments then unite the entire Islamic community with a focus on Israel, the U.S., and the West
- Sometime between 1998 and 2001 EIJ was absorbed into al Qaeda

Growth of International Jihadist Networks – Birth of al Qaeda
- al Qaeda was born in the last stages of the Soviet-Afghan War
- Grew until the US offensive in Afghanistan
- Changed after 2001
  - Went from a command hierarchy to a worldwide decentralized alliance of al Qaeda terrorist
  - al Qaeda is one manifestation of the Jihadist movement
  - Movement has millions of supporters and sympathizers
Jihadist Ideology

- Contends that Islam is corrupted and needs purification
- Blame is placed on heretical Islamic leaders
- Believe much of the corruption is due to values and economic power of the West, especially the U.S.
- Called to destroy the evil influence
- Not necessarily affiliated nor controlled by al Qaeda
- Independents bound by common ideas

Misappropriated Theology

- Since Jihadists make religious claims, many Muslims become upset when their faith is portrayed in terms of violent terrorism
- Islam is a religion valuing peace and toleration
- Violent passages in the Koran can be found in the writings of all major religions
- Confusion about mainstream Islam complicates attempts to understand Jihadists
- Misunderstandings increase when Jihadists use religious rhetoric and language

Misappropriated Theology (cont.)

- Militant Muslims embrace the reforming doctrines of Wahhab, the Salafiyya, and the Muslim Brotherhood, while departing from the path of Islam and endorsing violence
- They see jihad as a duty and means for imposing their strict form of Islam
- Most Muslims reject these ideas
### Origins of Jihadist Networks

- Foundation of modern Jihadist power grew from the Cold War
- Western allies channeled support to both militant and nonviolent purification movements within Islam through oil-rich Muslim states
- In 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan

### Origins of Jihadist Networks (cont.)

- U.S. formed an alliance with Pakistani Interservice Intelligence Agency (ISI)
  - Began training and equipping the *mujahideen*, or holy warriors
  - The U.S. helped Saudi Arabia develop a funding mechanism and underground arms network to supply the mujahideen
- U.S. agreed to give most of the weapons and supplies to the ISI
  - ISI built mujahideen groups with little American participation

### Origins of Jihadist Networks (cont.)

- Islamic charities flourished in the U.S.
  - Donations supported the mujahideen
  - U.S. abandoned war-torn Afghanistan when the Soviets left in 1989
  - Virtually ignored by the U.S., the Jihadist movement grew
  - When the Soviets finally retreated, the Afghan mujahideen believed the power of God had prevailed over Satan
  - The major leaders wanted to turn their efforts against the other enemies of God:
    - Apostate Islamic governments
    - Israel
    - The West
Jihad Continues in Afghanistan

- The mujahadeen groups continued to fight for control of the country
- al Qaeda was one of many paramilitary groups fighting in Afghanistan
- U.S. failed to recognize the problem on two levels
  1) U.S. paid more attention to potential profits than to political problems in Afghanistan
     - U.S. oil companies sought alliances with hopes of building an oil pipeline from Central Asia to the Indian Ocean
  2) The US simply ignored the issues

The Rise of Osama bin Laden (cont.)

- Osama bin Laden emerged as a symbol of Islamic discontent in the 1990s
- He was the son of Mohammed bin Laden, a wealthy construction executive who worked closely with the Saudi royal family
- Bin laden was raised in the Saudi royal court
  - His tutor, Mohammed Qutb, was the brother of the Egyptian radical Sayyid Qutb

The Rise of Osama bin Laden (cont.)

- Eventually, bin Laden dropped out of college to join the Soviet-Afghan War
- While in Afghanistan, bin Laden fell under the influence of Abdullah Azzam, a doctor of Islamic law
  - Azzam believed Islam should be the guiding force for war
  - Refused to abandon religious principles for the sake of political victory
  - According to Izzam, the realm of Islam had been dominated by foreign powers for too long
    - It was time for all Muslims to rise up and strike Satan
The Rise of Osama bin Laden (cont.)

- Bin Laden and Azzam established what they called a base or foundation (al Qaeda) as a potential general headquarters for future Jihad
- Bin Laden was its leader
- The organization included:
  - An intelligence component
  - A finance committee
  - A political committee
  - A committee in charge of media affairs and propaganda

The Rise of Osama bin Laden (cont.)

- The ISI developed the structure that would support al Qaeda with US and Saudi funds during the Soviet-Afghan War
- Training in Pakistan and Afghanistan under Azzam’s spiritual mentoring, bin Laden financed mujihadeen operations and taught the guerillas how to build field fortifications
  - By 1986, he left the training field for the battlefield

The Rise of Osama bin Laden (cont.)

- After taking part in the war, bin Laden returned to Pakistan and joined Azzam in a new venture:
  - To register all the foreign jihadist in a single computer database
  - Developed a relationship with Ayman al Zawahiri
    - Zawahiri became the brains behind the new operation
    - bin Laden and Zawahiri began planning model for al Qaeda
      - Umbrella organization similar to EIJ
The Rise of Osama bin Laden
(cont.)

- Al Zawahiri knew from experience that an umbrella-style organization was difficult to penetrate
  - He persuaded bin Laden that this was the type of organization to take control of Afghanistan and spread the new Islamic empire
- With al Zawahiri’s ideas, bin Laden took advantage of America’s inattention
  - He began to recruit into al Qaeda the mujahdeen registered in his database
  - Al Zawahiri organized training camps and cells

The Rise of Osama bin Laden
(cont.)

- Bin Laden saw the Soviet collapse in Afghanistan as a sign of God’s victory
  - Islamic law was to be imposed on the world
  - Bin Laden believed al Qaeda to be the organization that could do it
- In Nov. 1989, Azzam was killed by a remote-controlled car bomb
  - Bin laden and al Zawahiri became the undisputed leaders of al Qaeda
  - Their enemies were the US, the West, Israel, and Muslims who refused to accept jihadist ideology

The Rise of Osama bin Laden
(cont.)

- A US-led coalition called Desert Shield became Desert Storm in Feb. 1991 when US, British, and other allied forces poured into Iraq and Kuwait
- bin Laden became incensed when U.S. troops were stationed in Saudi Arabia after Desert Storm
  - By Apr., he began training and financing terrorist groups
  - Called for overthrow of unsympathetic Muslim governments
Declaring War on the US

- Bin Laden’s protests against Desert Storm brought a Saudi crackdown on his operations
  - He was forced to flee the country
- Bin Laden found friends in Sudan’s radical govt.
- In Dec. 1992, a bomb exploded in a hotel in Yemen
  - It was seen as the opening shot in bin Laden’s war against the U.S.
- Yael Shahar:
  - Bin Laden did not need a govt. to support his operations
  - He had the money, personnel, material, and infrastructure necessary to maintain a campaign of terror

Declaring War on the US (cont.)

- 9-11 Commission Report
  - Disagrees with Shahar
  - Believes bin Laden was, and remains, funded by wealthy sympathizers
- Bin Laden was active in Somalia when US troops joined the forces trying to get food to the area
  - Thought it was another US-led assault on a Muslim nation
- Bin Laden was also involved in assassination attempts
  - 1993 – Tried to murder Prince Abdullah
  - 1995 – Believed to have been behind an attempt on Hosni Mubarak

Declaring War on the US (cont.)

- Bin Laden was forced from Sudan in 1996 by international pressure
  - Al Zawahiri fled Egypt when security forces began cracking down on Jihadists
  - Both men went to Afghanistan, where many displaced Jihadists joined them
- Bin Laden declared war on the U.S. in 1996
  - Followed this by two religious rulings, fatwa, in 1998
- Bin laden represents a new phase in Middle Eastern terrorism
  - He is intent on spreading the realm of Islam with a transnational group
  - He uses Islam to call for religious violence
War on the U.S. (cont.)

- 1998:
  - US Embassy, Nairobi, Kenya
  - US Embassy, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- 2000:
  - USS Cole
  - Failed millennium plot
- 2001:
  - NYC
  - Pentagon

Eclectic Disassociation: Fifth Generation Jihadists

- By 2007, al Qaeda was trying to reestablish some type of leadership structure in Pakistan along the Afghanistan border
- But its strength comes not from its ability to command, but from its inspirational ability to motivate
- The breakup of al Qaeda created a fifth generation of Jihadist terror networks
  - The all-channel networks that operated without central leadership or permanent structures
- The new associations were not organizations at all, but eclectic disassociations

Eclectic Disassociation: Fifth Generation Jihadists: Decentralized Operations

- International Jihadists operations actually began operating in networks before al Qaeda took an ideological leading role
- It was a loose confederation of like-minded people who had limited interactions
- Bin Laden’s use of al Zawahiri’s umbrella or hub organization brought cohesion to Jihadists with differing causes
Eclectic Disassociation: Fifth Generation
Jihadists: Decentralized Operations (cont.)

Before the US offensive in Afghanistan in Oct. 2001, al Qaeda existed with a leadership
group in Afghanistan and semi-autonomous
sleeper cells placed in various countries
throughout the world.

- Cells were designed to “sleep” or stay hidden,
  until they were called to action.
- After leadership in Afghanistan was
  neutralized, sleeper cells began to operate on
  their own.

Jihadists see a holy war against the US as a
method for uniting political Islam.

- It is one of the few issues holding the Jihadists
  together.
- US operations in Afghanistan caused al
  Qaeda to completely decentralize.
- When their Afghan base was rendered
  inoperable, al Qaeda reformed from an
  umbrella or hub into a series of autonomous
  organizations driven by local concerns.

The dispersion of the al Qaeda organization in
Afghanistan also created new forms of terrorism.

When G.W. Bush shift his attention from al
Qaeda to Iraq, the U.S. lost the support it had
enjoyed after September 11.

Jihadists learned to use the media as a force
multiplier.

- They used the Internet as a communication and
  planning tool.
- They created propaganda videos.
- They Jihadists began posting their own productions on
  the Internet.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Jihad</th>
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<tr>
<td>On March 19, 2003, President Bush ordered US forces to attack Saddam Hussein, the longtime authoritarian leader of Iraq.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Officially dubbed <em>Operation Iraqi Freedom</em>, the invasion intended to preempt Hussein from launching a terrorist attack on the US.</td>
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<td>- Two suppositions by the Bush administration supported the invasion:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Iraq was holding weapons of mass destruction.</td>
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<td>- Hussein had established ties with al Qaeda.</td>
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<td>- The invasion of Iraq rejuvenated the Jihadist movement.</td>
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<td>- With their common enemy so close to home, various Jihadist groups and individuals made their way to Iraq to attack the US.</td>
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