

*God's Terrorists - The Wahhabi Cult and the Hidden Roots of Modern Jihad*  
by Charles Allen. Little Brown 2006.

It is often the case that issues and philosophies that feature regularly in the media are more frequently misunderstood as a result by the great majority of people; such is certainly the case, at least since 9/11 if not before, with Wahhabism.

It is therefore a great pleasure to welcome Charles Allen's latest book which takes its place alongside his previous excellent publications. *God's Terrorists* is a measured, meticulously researched analysis of the practical and philosophical origins and development of Wahhabi Islam, as well as the ways in which its manifestations in India, Afghanistan and Arabia have influenced historical events.

By presenting some major events - such as the 1857 mutiny, the Ambeyla Disaster and the rise of the House of Saud - in the context of the Wahhabism that was so influentially in their background Allen not only sets them in a better context but also helps the discerning reader to spot and understand a trend whose manifestations in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century continue to destabilise and threaten in equal measure.

The picture of Wahhabism that Allen presents is cold, brutal, divisive and disturbing, but this is not because the author's bias shows through - he is an exemplary historian in this regard - but rather because the facts themselves present this picture all too clearly, whether one is looking for it or not.

*God's Terrorists* is an excellent addition to the recent corpus of material on Wahhabi Islam and deserves to be widely read.

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