

Apocalyptic Realm: Jihadists in South Asia by Dilip Hiro.  
Yale University Press, 2012.

How Terrorism Ends: Understanding the Decline and Demise of  
terrorist Campaigns by Audrey Kurth Cronin.  
Princeton University Press, 2012.

Even though Osama bin Laden has been fed to the fishes and the surviving leadership of Al-Qaeda has been decimated by American drones, violent Islamism and its jihadi ambitions continue to metastasize across the world, and their power and influence in Afghanistan and Pakistan shows little sign of diminishing.

In *Apocalyptic Realm*, the journalist and writer Dilip Hiro focuses on these geographical areas and considers them both in terms of the historical and current contexts. This is well-trodden territory since 9/11, but Hiro challenges some of the conventional perspectives, introduces new elements not least the Sufi dimension, makes more of the Indian connection and the importance of Kashmir in the shaping of jihadi groups, considers the potential for a nuclear confrontation between India and Pakistan, and concludes with a succinct but deeply disturbing overview.

*How Terrorism Ends* by Professor Audrey Kurth Cronin, who is professor of strategy at the US National War College in Washington D.C., appears at first sight to be the perfect antidote to anyone who obsesses or agonizes about terrorism and its darkest implications for us in the West, the Islamist enemies of choice.

Professor Cronin thesis is expressed in seven chapters, each one relating to one of the strategies which combined could bring terrorism to an end and substantiated by examples from 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century history. They are: Decapitation: Catching or Killing the Leader; Negotiations: Transition toward a Legitimate Political Process; Success: Achieving the Objective; Failure: Imploding, Provoking a Backlash, or Becoming Marginalized; Repression: Crushing Terrorism with Force; Reorientation: Transitioning to Another Modus Operandi; How Al-Qaeda Ends: The Relevance and Irrelevance of History. These chapters are followed by a brief conclusion summarising the different parts of her thesis, entitled Understanding How Terrorism Ends and an appendix statistically analysing the length of terrorist campaigns.

This is an impeccable text, offering some hope to those who fear a terrorist cataclysm, ways to ameliorate situations that foster or encourage terrorist activity, and a clear strategy for governments to pursue. We will have to wait to see how amenable nihilistic Islamist terrorism is to reason and common sense...I shall not be holding my breath.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh