

GLOBAL ALERT

COLUMBIA STUDIES IN TERRORISM
AND IRREGULAR WARFARE

COLUMBIA STUDIES IN TERRORISM AND IRREGULAR WARFARE

Bruce Hoffman, Series Editor

This series seeks to fill a conspicuous gap in the burgeoning literature on terrorism, guerrilla warfare, and insurgency. The series adheres to the highest standards of scholarship and discourse and publishes books that elucidate the strategy, operations, means, motivations, and effects posed by terrorist, guerrilla, and insurgent organizations and movements. It thereby provides a solid and increasingly expanding foundation of knowledge on these subjects for students, established scholars, and informed reading audiences alike.

Ami Pedahzur, *The Israeli Secret Services and the Struggle Against Terrorism*

Ami Pedahzur and Arie Perliger, *Jewish Terrorism in Israel*

Lorenzo Vidino, *The New Muslim Brotherhood in the West*

Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan, *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Resistance*

William C. Banks, *New Battlefields/Old Laws: Critical Debates on Asymmetric Warfare*

Blake W. Mobley, *Terrorism and Counterintelligence: How Terrorist Groups Elude Detection*

Guido W. Steinberg, *German Jihad: On the Internationalization of Islamist Terrorism*

Michael W.S. Ryan, *Decoding Al-Qaeda's Strategy: The Deep Battle Against America*

David H. Ucko and Robert Egnell, *Counterinsurgency in Crisis: Britain and the Challenges of Modern Warfare*

Bruce Hoffman and Fernando Reinares, editors, *The Evolution of the Global Terrorist Threat: From 9/11 to Osama bin Laden's Death*

BOAZ GANOR

GLOBAL ALERT

The Rationality of Modern Islamist Terrorism and
the Challenge to the Liberal Democratic World

Columbia University Press / New York



Columbia University Press

Publishers Since 1893

New York Chichester, West Sussex

cup.columbia.edu

Copyright © 2015 Columbia University Press

Chapter three first published, in slightly different form,
in William C. Banks, ed., *Shaping a Global Legal Framework
for Counterinsurgency: New Directions in Asymmetric Warfare*
(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012). By permission of

Oxford University Press.

All rights reserved

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Ganor, Boaz.

Global alert : the rationality of modern Islamist terrorism and the challenge to
the liberal democratic world / Boaz Ganor.

pages cm. — (Columbia studies in terrorism and irregular warfare)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-231-17212-7 (cloth : alk. paper) — ISBN 978-0-231-53891-6 (ebook)

1. Terrorism—Islamic countries. 2. Terrorism—Religious aspects—Islam.

3. Terrorism—Prevention. I. Title.

HV6433.I74.G36 2015

363.325—dc23

2014029475



Columbia University Press books are printed on permanent
and durable acid-free paper.

This book is printed on paper with recycled content.

Printed in the United States of America

C 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Cover design: Noah Arlow

Cover image: Geoff Spear

References to websites (URLs) were accurate at the time of writing.
Neither the author nor Columbia University Press is responsible for URLs
that may have expired or changed since the manuscript was prepared.