

Decoding Al-Qaeda's Strategy



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*

Jennifer Morrison Taw, *Mission Revolution*

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

Decoding Al-Qaeda's Strategy

The Deep Battle Against America

Michael W. S. Ryan

Columbia University Press



New York

Columbia University Press
Publishers Since 1893
New York Chichester, West Sussex
cup.columbia.edu
Copyright © 2013 Columbia University Press
All rights reserved

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Ryan, Michael W. S.

Decoding Al-Qaeda's strategy ; the deep battle against America /

Michael W. S. Ryan.

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

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-231-16384-2 (cloth : alk. paper) — ISBN 978-0-231-53327-0 (e-book)

1. Qaida (Organization) 2. Terrorism—United States—Prevention. 3. Terrorism—Religious aspects—Islam. 4. Jihad. I. Title

HV6432.5.Q2R93 2013

363.325—dc23

2012049506



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

Jacket design: Fifth Letter

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.

For Janet and Thomas



