

SACRED RAGE



THE WRATH OF MILITANT ISLAM

"Sacred Rage is must reading—and fascinating reading—for all those who want to understand the fanatical violence of the Middle East."—Anthony Lewis

ROBIN WRIGHT

Updated with New Chapters

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There are but two powers in the world, the sword and the pen, the sword is always beaten by the pen.

—NAPHTALION IN EXILE

Islamic militancy in the 1970s. *Seven Days* chronicles the Islamic jihad in the Middle East, from the Algerian Revolution to the Iranian Revolution, and the rise of Osama bin Laden, Al-Qaeda, and the Taliban. It is a book that has played out through religion for a century. In 2001, Osama bin Laden's network may have under-

mined the world's order in modern history. But as the book shows, the only bigger, fiercer and deadlier than what has been a steady progression of extremism in the Islamic world over the past three decades. Palestinian militants hijacked planes in the 1960s. Iran introduced Islam as a successful form of modern political opposition in 1979. And Lebanese Shiites conducted the first suicide bombings in the 1980s. On September 11, 2001, nineteen jihadists of al-Qaeda appear to have combined all three—in a bold new sense far from their own turf.

The war on terrorism declared by the United States on September 11, 2001, will almost surely succeed in tracking and finding some of the world's most notorious militants. By the time American and British warplanes opened fire on October 7, hundreds of suspected extremists had already been rounded up in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

But just as important as knowing who is responsible is understanding why the attacks happened—our context.

To win the war on terrorism—or at least seriously diminish the assaults on American or Western targets—the new global coalition will