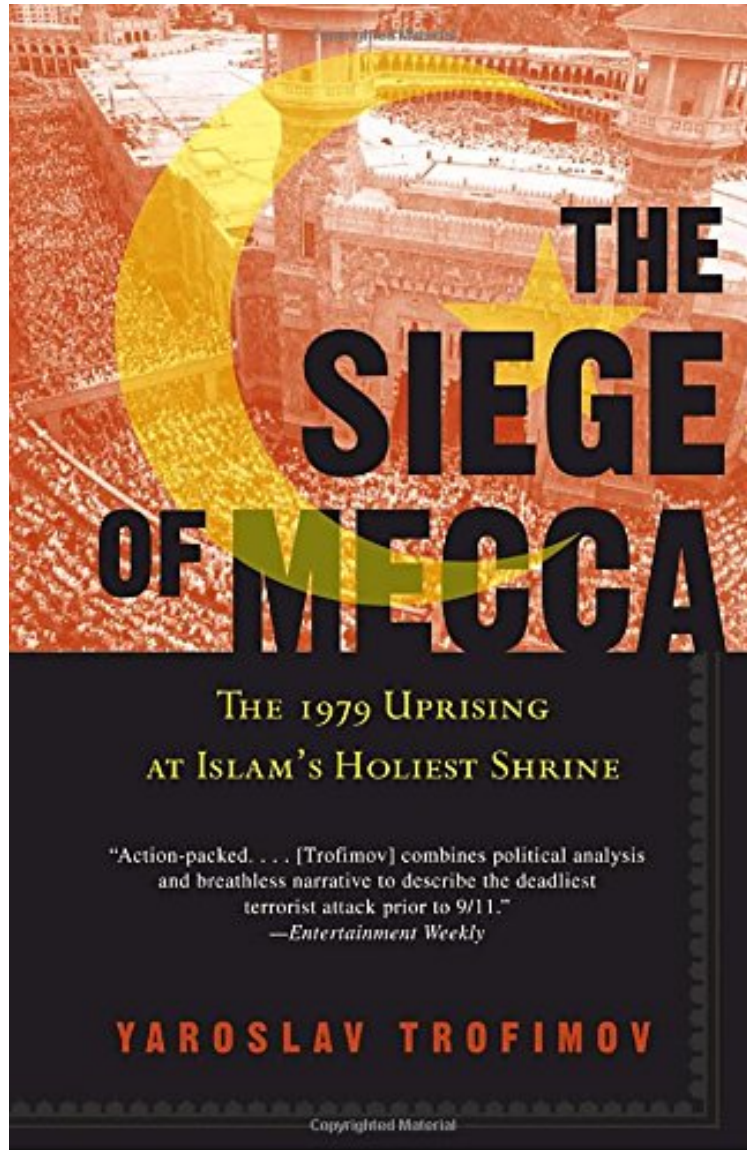


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The Siege of Mecca: The 1979 Uprising at Islam's Holiest Shrine

Yaroslav Trofimov

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#160263 in Books Yaroslav Trofimov 2008-09-09 2008-09-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.10 x .70 x 5.20l, .68 #File Name: 0307277739336 pagesThe Siege of Mecca The 1979 Uprising at Islam s Holiest Shrine | File size: 17.Mb

Yaroslav Trofimov : The Siege of Mecca: The 1979 Uprising at Islam's Holiest Shrine before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Siege of Mecca: The 1979 Uprising at Islam's Holiest Shrine:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. This should be required reading for everyone who is trying ...By Shop ManThis should be required reading for everyone who is trying to understand the catastrophic situation in the

Middle East. The author tells the story of Wahhabi Moslem extremists, from many countries, attacking, and seizing, Mecca in 1979. This attack and the Saudi Arabian response was purely a fight among Moslems but it led to Moslem attacks on US embassies across the middle east due to Iranian propaganda blaming the US for the attack. In telling this story the author describes the history of the hundreds of years of radical Moslem religious turmoil leading up to this pivotal event. He then explores its aftermath and illustrates the continuing violence and terrorism associated with the Wahhabi extremism in many countries across the Middle East including the assassination of the Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. Today's events from ISIS to Iraq to Yemen to Syria to Iran to Pakistan to Afghanistan are much easier to understand given this perspective. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. TerrifyingBy RKThis was a fascinating book about a subject that I had never heard about before. I happened to hear about it on a podcast and I was intrigued enough to give it a try. If you are a fan of world history, then you will love how this book brings all of the political struggles of the 70's and 80's together. Excellent book! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Minimal Western coverage does not do justice to the importance of this eventBy William CapodannoThe author has done an exceptional job of researching and sourcing material for this amazing look at a pivotal event in modern Islam and Middle Eastern history. While I was vaguely familiar with the attempted siege of the Grand Mosque in Mecca in 1979, the details behind the takeover by Sunni's intent on overthrowing the Saudi Royal family and the ultimately "successful" subduing of the followers of Juhayman makes for a fascinating read and raises questions about the lasting impact of this event. Occurring shortly after the Iranian Revolution, Trofimov provides a revealing look into never before covered facts about how close the Saudi regime came to being overthrown, the ineptitude of the Saudi government departments in putting down the situation (National Guard, Dept. of Interior) and the role of the French special forces in assisting the royal family. Especially captivating were Trofimov's chapters on the harrowing situations for American diplomats and their staffs in Pakistan and Libya as Islamic students attempted to destroy the US Embassy's and quite possibly replicate the situation that existed in Tehran. For anyone interested in the Islam and the Middle East, this book is an absolute must.

In *The Siege of Mecca*, acclaimed journalist Yaroslav Trofimov pulls back the curtain on a thrilling, pivotal, and overlooked episode of modern history, examining its repercussions on the Middle East and the world. On November 20, 1979, worldwide attention was focused on Tehran, where the Iranian hostage crisis was entering its third week. That same morning, gunmen stunned the world by seizing the Grand Mosque in Mecca, creating a siege that trapped 100,000 people and lasted two weeks, inflaming Muslim rage against the United States and causing hundreds of deaths. But in the days before CNN and Al Jazeera, the press barely took notice. Trofimov interviews for the first time scores of direct participants in the siege, and draws upon hundreds of newly declassified documents. With the pacing, detail, and suspense of a real-life thriller, *The Siege of Mecca* reveals the long-lasting aftereffects of the uprising and its influence on the world today.

From Publishers WeeklyTrofimov, a Wall Street Journal writer and observer of the Muslim world (*Faith at War*), tackles an incident unreported in the West: the violent takeover of Islam's holiest shrine by Muslim fundamentalists in 1979. Carrying out his investigations in one of the world's most closed societies, Trofimov has crafted a compelling historical narrative, blending messianic theology with righteous violence, and the Saudi state's sclerotic corruption with the complicity of the official religious institutions. Trofimov aptly points out endemic regional problems with enduring repercussions for fighting terror, but is hampered by his sensationalist style (The world was twelve months away from the tumultuous events that would cover the mosque's marble courtyard with blood, spilled guts and severed limbs). In 1979, the Saudi intelligence services apparently had no accurate blueprints of the Grand Mosque, and knew nothing of the underground labyrinth where many of the militants took shelter; they eventually received plans to the site from Osama bin Laden's older brother. Ringleader Juhayman and his followers have inspired al-Qaeda and countless other Islamic revivalist movements to ever greater acts of violence, even though they were mesmerized by their limited understanding of an obscurantist theology and were convinced that that one of their unassuming members was the Messiah. Casual readers will be well served by this introduction to Muslim fundamentalist terrorism. (Sept. 18) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Action-packed. . . . [Trofimov] combines political analysis and breathless narrative to describe the deadliest terrorist attack prior to 9/11. Entertainment WeeklyFascinating . . . remarkable. . . . Anyone can read *The Siege of Mecca*, and everyone should. The Washington Post[*The Siege of Mecca*] begins with all the menace of a political thriller. . . . Riveting. Conde Nast PortfolioA gripping, highly informed narrative of this momentous event. Financial TimesAbout the AuthorYaroslav Trofimov, an award-winning foreign correspondent for the Wall Street Journal, has extensively reported from Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries. He is also the author of *Faith at War: A Journey on the Frontlines of Islam*, from Baghdad to Timbuktu. www.siegeofmecca.com