



## The Islamist Phoenix

The Islamic State and the Redrawing of the Middle East

**LORETTA NAPOLEONI**

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*The Islamist Phoenix* is a vital contribution to our understanding of what is happening in the Middle East. It is, like all great pieces of journalism or history, a counter-narrative, one that refuses to become trapped in the easy and fatuous clichés peddled in the West about resistance and radical Islam. Napoleoni exposes the folly of empire. She forces us to see ourselves as others see us. —Chris Hedges, former Middle East Bureau Chief for *The New York Times* and author with Joe Sacco of *Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt*

Clear, concise and unequivocal. A timely book in which the author brings her in-depth knowledge and expertise to bear on a dangerous development in the international terrorism arena that has been totally misread by the West and its allies. —Michael Chandler, Co-author of *Countering Terrorism* and Chairman of the former UN Security Council Al-Qaeda Sanctions Monitoring Team

This thorough and incisive inquiry yields much insight into some of the most important issues of today, and tomorrow —Noam Chomsky

***A timely, piercing study of the Islamic State—today’s dominant jihadist group in the Middle East whose star continues to rise—by the world-renowned expert on terrorist financing and money laundering***

The rise to prominence by the Islamic State (IS)—now dominating Middle Eastern politics—is explained in revealing detail by economist and bestselling author Loretta Napoleoni. Napoleoni illuminates the singularity of IS and how it differs from other jihadist organizations, particularly in terms of its economic structure and focus on consensus instead of pure violence. In *The Islamist Phoenix*, Napoleoni traces the beginnings of IS, its dynamic with al-Qaeda, and its current status as the first official Caliphate in over a century. With brilliant research and straightforward prose, the author brings the newest form of shell-state government to light, and shows us how dangerous it would be to underestimate it.

LORETTA NAPOLEONI is the author of international bestsellers *Rogue Economics: Capitalism’s New Reality*, which has been translated into fourteen languages, and *Terror Inc.: Tracing the Money Behind Global Terrorism*, which has been translated into twelve languages. One of the world’s leading experts on money laundering and terror financing, she has worked as London correspondent and columnist for *La Stampa*, *Il Corriere della Sera*, *La Repubblica*, *El País*, and *Le Monde*. A former Fulbright scholar, she holds an MA in international relations and economics from Johns Hopkins University, and an MPhil in terrorism from the London School of Economics. For her work as a consultant for the commodities markets, she traveled regularly to Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria, and other Middle Eastern countries, where she has met top financial and political leaders. She lives in London.

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