

"The . . . transcript provide[s] a full and revealing picture of Al-Qaeda, showing it to be the most lethal terrorist organization anywhere in the world."

Al Qaeda Is a Worldwide Terrorist Threat

Daniel Pipes and Steven Emerson

Al Qaeda, a terrorist organization with worldwide operational reach, views the West as the ultimate enemy of Islam, Daniel Pipes and Steven Emerson argue in the following viewpoint. They maintain that as an umbrella organization that includes many militant Islamic groups, al Qaeda represents a serious terrorist threat to the world, particularly to the United States. Daniel Pipes is director of the Middle East Forum, a member of the board of the U.S. Institute of Peace, and an internationally known columnist. Steven Emerson is a nationally recognized terrorism expert and the author of *American Jihad: The Terrorists Living Among Us*.

As you read, consider the following questions:

1. According to Pipes and Emerson, a victory over what country inspired al Qaeda to attack the United States?
2. What is the ideology that keeps the various groups coordinated by al Qaeda together, in the authors' opinion?
3. What is the basis for the authors' argument that al Qaeda operatives are best thought of as soldiers, not criminals?

Daniel Pipes and Steven Emerson, "Terrorism on Trial," *The Wall Street Journal*, May 31, 2001. Copyright © 2001 by Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduced by permission of *The Wall Street Journal* and the authors.