



The Assassins

By Bernard Lewis

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The Assassins is a comprehensive, readable, and authoritative account of history's first terrorists. An offshoot of the Ismaili Shi'ite sect of Islam, the Assassins were the first group to make systematic use of murder as a political weapon. Established in Iran and Syria in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, they aimed to overthrow the existing Sunni order in Islam and replace it with their own. They terrorized their foes with a series of dramatic murders of Islamic leaders, as well as of some of the Crusaders, who brought their name and fame back to Europe. Professor Lewis traces the history of this radical group, studying its teachings and its influence on Muslim thought. Particularly insightful in light of the rise of the terrorist attacks in the U.S. and in Israel, this account of the Assassins--whose name is now synonymous with politically motivated murderers--places recent events in historical perspective and sheds new light on the fanatic mind.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Learned, lucid and elegant...with great skill [Lewis] disentangles truth from legend." -- *The Economist*

"No one writes about Muslim history with greater authority, or intelligence, or literary charm than Professor Bernard Lewis." -- *Sunday Times* (London)

"[Lewis] traces with an easy, almost conversational scholarship the emergence, triumph, and sudden demise of the [Assassin] faith." -- *The New Yorker*

About the Author

Bernard Lewis, author of *What Went Wrong?*, *The Middle East*, *The Muslim Discovery of Europe*, *The Arabs in History*, and many other books, is Cleveland E. Dodge Professor Emeritus of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University.

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