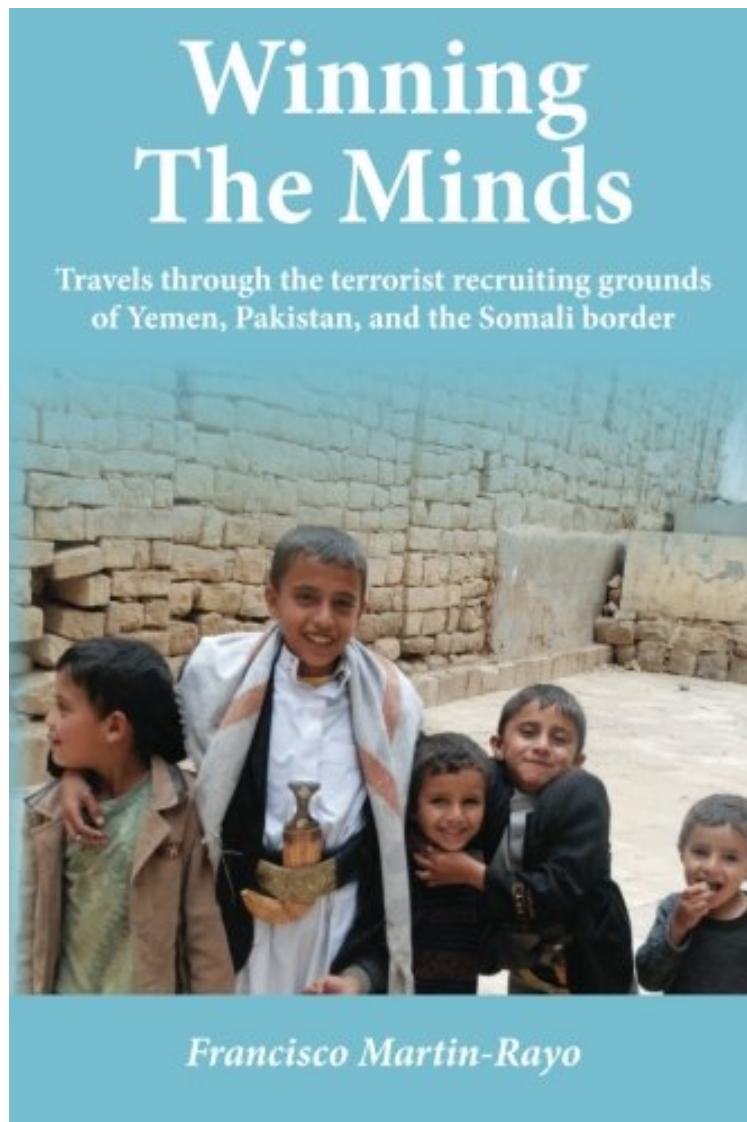


(Library ebook) Winning The Minds: Travels through the terrorist recruiting grounds of Yemen, Pakistan, and the Somali border

Winning The Minds: Travels through the terrorist recruiting grounds of Yemen, Pakistan, and the Somali border

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Francisco Martin-Rayo : Winning The Minds: Travels through the terrorist recruiting grounds of Yemen, Pakistan, and the Somali border before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Winning The Minds: Travels through the terrorist recruiting grounds of Yemen, Pakistan, and the Somali border:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Easy and interesting read on a very relevant topic
By Ieva KunI read the book almost at once, as I really enjoyed the travelogue style of the research. The author vividly describes his experience with local people, their hospitality, troubles with local bureaucracy and security organisations. The book gives an glance to the lives of refugees in the camps, work of international aid organisations and expat communities working in them. It is written in a very easy language, therefore, those who are not involved in international development area can easily follow the book. However, the conclusions sound a little bit like an essay of a high school student - couple months of researching a topic does not make one an expert of international relations. Although I agree with authors ideas, these issues are very complex and simple recommendations 'how to make the world a better place' might not work the way they are expected. Overall, I really enjoyed the book and I congratulate the author on choosing such an interesting research for his studies and having the courage to complete it.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Will give you something to think about - good book!
By CustomerThe author recounts his journeys through these countries while researching education among refugee populations. I found his journeys very interesting and his conclusions and research even more so. I hope this book is widely read so those ideas can be widely spread and inspire the right people to work toward these goals. I found it very disturbing what happened to the Jewish cemetery. This is a book well worth reading, very entertaining, and it gives one a lot to think about.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. the good, the bad and the ugly was extremely refereshing
By Alexandria N WernerI've been searching high and low for a book that I can just hand to people who say flippant things about people from these cultures. Francisco manages to show the adversity faced by ordinary people, and ordinary is the operative word here. The honest discussion of the issues, the good, the bad and the ugly was extremely refereshing. Thank you, Francisco.

Winning The Minds is a thought-provoking analysis rooted in impressive on-the-ground research. A valuable read. - Graham Allison, Founding Dean of the Harvard Kennedy School and Director of the Belfer Center at Harvard University
The Yemeni intelligence officer was yelling at me now, his moustache bristling with rage as he showered me with flecks of spit. Enta muhim maa il jehuddi? Enta muhim?! I tried to translate his words in my head, the fear paralyzing my brain as I begged for a translator. This only seemed to infuriate him even more, as up until this point we had been speaking in Arabic. Muhim Important. Jehuddi Jewish. He was asking me if I was important with the Jews. He thought I was Jewish. Another spate of insults and spit followed, and all I caught was Yisrael. He was implying I was a spy for Israel. I gasped as the significance of this accusation hit me. The Yemeni intelligence officers thought they had caught an Israeli spy. If I couldnt convince him otherwise, I would soon find myself handcuffed naked to a chair while they tortured me for information I didnt have. How had I ended up here? Less than a year ago I was sitting on the 46th floor of a building in midtown Manhattan, part of the indistinguishable group of young college grads working in finance, and now I was seconds away from disappearing into a Yemeni prison. What turn of events, what decisions, had led me to this moment? Having left his job as a hedge fund analyst in New Yorks financial district to study counter-terrorism at Harvard, Francisco Martin-Rayos newly chosen path led to a conversation with a top intelligence official. From that single conversation his life would change in ways he could never imagine and he would learn a simple truth that might change the world as we know it. Inspired to study terrorist recruitment, Martin-Rayos embarks on a whirlwind journey to the three most fertile refugee camps in the world for terrorist recruiters: Dadaab, Kenya, dominated by al-Shabaab, the most recent al-Qaeda franchisee; the camps around Peshawar, Pakistan, where the Taliban actively recruits fighters; and Kharaz in southern Yemen, right in the middle of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's heartland. Describing the countries' histories and conflicts as he details his own travels, he provides a fundamental understanding of the regions, cultures, and people he comes into contact with. Along the way his experiences prove to be hilarious, heartbreaking, and gripping, including: his detention by the Yemeni Intelligence Service after being confused for an Israeli spy; meetings with Pakistani intelligence officials who talk about the beginnings of the Taliban movement and how they funded it; drunken nights with Kenyan government officials who admit to recruiting Somali refugee children to fight against al-Qaeda; and a stroll through a desecrated ancient Jewish cemetery in the middle of al-Qaeda territory. Most interesting, however, are the conversations that the author has with refugee children and terrorist recruits. He comes to realize that US policy is deeply flawed and that there is a key difference between those individuals who join terrorist organizations and those who don't. Part travelogue, part analysis of American counterterrorism policies in the region, Martin-Rayos groundbreaking treatise is an eye-opening look into the heart of terrorist recruitment. A gripping story reminiscent of Greg Mortensons bestseller Three Cups of Tea, Winning the Minds: Travels Through the Terrorist Recruiting Grounds of Yemen, Pakistan, and the Somali Border is an extraordinary journey that changes the face of counterterrorism policy forever.

About the Author
Francisco Martin-Rayos holds a BA in international relations and a BSc in economics from the University of Pennsylvania as well as a masters degree in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School, where he was an International and Global Affairs Fellow. He is an expert in counter-radicalization and public diplomacy programs and his work has been published by Foreign Policy magazine, The Guardian newspaper, and Harvard

University.