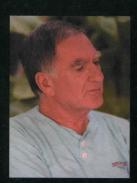
**Dying as a Shahid: Martyrs in Islam** examines the motives, religious and psychological, which make the so-called "suicide bomber" tick.

What is usually so-called, must rather be termed "Islamikaze" a combination of Islam and kamikaze, due to the phenomenological resemblance between the Japanese kamikaze who fought in the Pacific during World War II, and the present-day Muslim terrorists.

In addition to the religious, social, and psychological underpinnings of the phenomenon of Shahid (martyr), there is a rich array of historical precedents that have fixated this sort of terrorism with self-immolation, dubbed "self-sacrifice," as a prominent feature of Islamic life.



Raphael Israeli has taught Islamic, Chinese, and Middle Eastern history at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. A graduate of Hebrew University in history and Arabic literature, he earned a Ph.D. in Chinese and Islamic history from the University of California, Berkeley. Now retired, he has been a Fellow of the Harry Truman Research Institute at Hebrew University and the Jerusalem Center since the

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ISBN: 978-1-950015-16-0

Price: \$18.50



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