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BODY:

Study of Revenge: Saddam Hussein's Terror Against America, Gulf War Reprise, January 1993, unpublished to date, by Laurie Mylroie.

Dr Laurie Mylroie would prefer that the Clinton administration softens its single-minded fixation with Iran. Given the compelling evidence she has amassed linking Saddam Hussein to the bombing of the World Trade Center (WTC) in 1993 and to plans to wreak further havoc in New York City, her frustration is understandable. In her as yet unpublished book, Mylroie argues that, as long as Saddam remains in power, America and its allies had better brace themselves for further attacks by his regime. Moreover, she contends, the WTC bombing makes clear that future state-sponsored terrorism of this sort is likely to exploit the special horror of chemical or biological weapons. Deterring this form of 'strategic terrorism' through threats of retaliation in kind will be difficult, if not impossible, because the effects of a biological attack are unlikely to be felt until long after terrorists have fled the scene of their crime.

Meticulously re-examining evidence which has been presented during the ongoing trials of the bomb conspirators, Mylroie throws some of the original police work into doubt and points to alternative interpretations. The first indication that this attack was not the work of amateurs, she suggests, is the sophistication of the bomb itself.

Though only six people were killed after an explosives-filled van blew up in a parking lot located under one of the WTC's twin towers, the terrorists had been hoping for thousands of fatalities. In his sentencing of some of the bombing conspirators, Judge Duffy deplored the attempted use of cyanide gas in the bomb. If all had gone as planned, the first of the twin towers would have toppled into the second, engulfing it in a cloud of deadly cyanide gas. It is the sheer complexity of this scheme which leads Mylroie to assert that Iraq infiltrated and then used this group of bumbling amateurs to strike at the USA.

Though the New York fundamentalists are said to have been incited to carry out their

attack on the WTC by the emigre Egyptian cleric, Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, a mysterious Iraqi national named Ramzi Ahmed Yousef was the real brains behind the bomb

Perhaps more will be revealed when Yousef faces the judge this autumn. Whether that is the case or not, *Study of Revenge* sheds new light on this enigma and deserves wide publication. Many officials in the US intelligence community and beyond have privately endorsed the findings. This book is more than a tale of how a disaster did not happen; it is an important warning about the future of state-sponsored terrorism and about how inadequate our institutions are to deal with it. (Holly Porteous, Ottawa, Canada)