

The Al Qaeda Factor:

Plots against the West

by [Mitchell D. Silber \(/experts/mitchell-d-silber\)](/experts/mitchell-d-silber)

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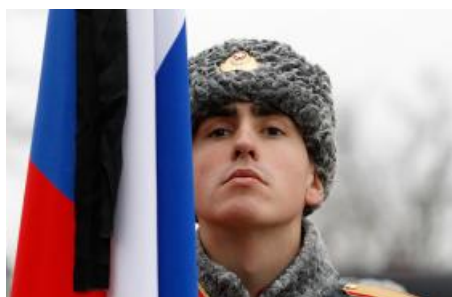
On December 16, Mitchell D. Silber, NYPD Director of Intelligence Analysis, addressed a Policy Forum at The Washington Institute to discuss his new book, *The Al Qaeda Factor* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011).

Silber examines sixteen Al-Qaeda-associated attacks launched against Western interests since 1993 and identifies potential points of vulnerability that could raise the odds of thwarting future terrorist attacks in the West. With its leadership structure in disarray, financial pipelines choked off, and operational capabilities in severe decline, Al Qaeda is at its weakest point in years.

[Download Mr. Silber's prepared remarks.](#)

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/html/pdf/SilberRemarks20111216.pdf> (PDF). ❖

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