

ROGER GRIFFIN (DPhil. Oxon, PhD h.c. Leuven) is Professor in Modern History at Oxford Brookes University, UK, and has produced over a 100 publications on a wide range of phenomena relating to generic fascism and extremism. His most influential monographs to date are *The Nature of Fascism* (Pinter, 1991) and *Modernism and Fascism. The Sense of a Beginning under Mussolini and Hitler* (Palgrave, 2007).

In the tsunami of publications on terrorism which followed 9/11, few have probed effectively into the deeper layers of motivation that enable normal human beings to carry out such unimaginable acts. *Terrorist's Creed* casts a penetrating beam of empathetic understanding into the murky and disturbing psychological world of fanatical violence, explaining how the fanaticism it demands stems from the profoundly human need to imbue existence with meaning and transcendence. Drawing on history, sociology, psychology, novels and films, it shows how the need to defend or create a territorial or purely cultural 'home' in an unforgiving universe can precipitate a process of 'heroic doubling' which in extreme circumstances legitimates murder and suicide for the sake of a 'higher' cause.

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