This volume explores the paramount importance of family to jihadism in France, Spain and in Europe more generally. In France, special focus is given to the paradigmatic case study of Mohammed Merah in the Toulouse region. In Spain, attention is given to the North and to Catalonia. With attention to both the concrete family – often in crisis – and the imaginary family invented by radicalised youth to substitute, this book shows the fundamental need among many jihadists to reconstitute the family, whether in the form of a clan or the imagined Caliphate (or neo-Ummah): a form of shared existence that offers escape from societies in which jihadists feel ill at ease. Demonstrating the failure of an emphasis on the individual actor to capture the meaning of jihadism, *Family and Jihadism* reveals the fundamental importance to our understanding of jihadist activity of the family (in an extended anthropological sense) – real or imagined – into which the individual is inserted. A study of the crisis of family and the re-creation of a new, enlarged family in the lives of young jihadists, this book will appeal to scholars of sociology, anthropology, politics and security studies with interests in radicalisation, political violence, social movements and religious violence.

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