



# ASSIST's Helping Hand Newsletter

Terrorism Survivors Helping Survivors

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## Iranian Constitution and World Terrorism

By Worley (Lee) Reed



ASSIST is dedicated to helping injured survivors of terrorism with legal, medical and financial assistance based on available organizational funds. ASSIST endeavors to fill the gap between government entitlements and real need.

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*How Constitutional Language Frames Iran's Foreign Policy and Its Connection to Proxy Warfare*

### **From Ink to Iron: How the Iranian Constitution Frames Foreign Policy and Proxy Warfare**

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, adopted by national referendum on 2–3 December 1979 and later revised in 1989, stands as one of the few national constitutions in the world that explicitly enshrines an ideological foreign-policy mandate. Unlike most constitutional frameworks — which limit foreign-affairs language to broad statements of peaceful intent or sovereignty — Iran's founding document dedicates an entire chapter to

prescribing how the state must engage with the world. Chapter X, comprising Articles 152 through 155, codifies a vision of global engagement rooted in revolutionary ideology, resistance to foreign domination, and active support for oppressed peoples worldwide. Understanding this constitutional architecture is essential for any serious analysis of Iran's extraterritorial military activities, its network of proxy forces, and its enduring posture as a revisionist power in the Middle East.

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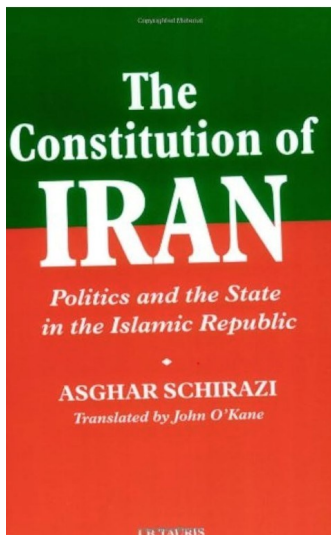
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We are grateful to the US Department of Justice and the National Organization for Victims Assistance (NOVA) for their support and leadership in the area of victims' rights.

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The cornerstone of this framework is Article 152, which establishes the foundational principles of Iranian foreign policy:

**"The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based upon the rejection of all forms of domination, both the exertion of it and submission to it, the preservation of the independence of the country in all respects and its territorial integrity, the defense of the rights of all Muslims, non-alignment with respect to the hegemonic superpowers, and the maintenance of mutually peaceful relations with all non-belligerent States."**

The language is carefully constructed. The phrase "rejection of all forms of domination" establishes an adversarial posture toward any perceived hegemonic power — a principle that has historically been directed at the United States and its regional allies. More consequentially, the clause mandating "the defense of the rights of all Muslims" extends Iran's constitutional obligations far beyond its borders, providing legal and ideological cover for an activist foreign policy that frames military engagement abroad as a constitutional duty rather than a discretionary policy choice. This is not aspirational rhetoric buried in a preamble; it is operative constitutional text that Iranian leaders have cited repeatedly to justify foreign interventions.

Article 154 extends this mandate fur-

ther, introducing the language of revolutionary solidarity that has shaped Iran's proxy relationships for over four decades:

**"The Islamic Republic of Iran has as its ideal human felicity throughout human society, and considers the attainment of independence, freedom, and rule of justice and truth to be the right of all people of the world. Accordingly, while scrupulously refraining from all forms of interference in the internal affairs of other nations, it supports the just struggles of the *mustad'afun* against the *mustakbirun* in every corner of the globe."**

The terms *mustad'afun* ("the oppressed" or "the downtrodden") and *mustakbirun* ("the arrogant" or "the oppressors") are rooted in Quranic vocabulary and were central to the revolutionary rhetoric of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. In the Islamic Republic's political lexicon, the *mustad'afun* encompass any Muslim or allied community perceived as suffering under foreign or Western-aligned domination — from Shia populations in Lebanon and Iraq to Palestinians under Israeli occupation and Houthis in Yemen. The *mustakbirun* are the powers arrayed against them: the United States, Israel, and their regional partners. This binary framing has provided the ideological justification for decades of financial, military, and logistical support for armed non-state actors — all while the same article claims Iran "scrupulously refrains" from interference in other nations' internal affairs.

The institutional instruments built to execute this constitutional vision are the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), established in 1979 immediately following the revolu-



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tion, and its extraterritorial branch, the Quds Force, formally organized circa 1988. The Quds Force specializes in unconventional warfare, military intelligence, and support for allied non-state actors across the region and beyond. Critically, it reports directly to the Supreme Leader — not to the elected president or parliament — placing it squarely within the theocratic chain of command rather than the democratic one. The strategic significance of this arrangement was underscored in April 2019, when the United States designated the IRGC as a Foreign Terrorist Organization — the first time in history that a sovereign nation's government military branch received such a designation.

Iran operationalized these constitutional principles through a network of proxy forces collectively known as the "Axis of Resistance." The most prominent is Hezbollah in Lebanon, founded in 1982 with direct IRGC support — approximately 1,500 Revolutionary Guard trainers were deployed to Lebanon's Bekaa Valley to organize, train, and equip the nascent militia. The network extends to Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the Palestinian territories, Houthi forces (Ansar Allah) in Yemen, and a constellation of Shia militia groups in Iraq, including Kata'ib Hezbollah, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, and the Badr Organization. Iran has provided these groups with funding estimated at hundreds of millions to over \$1 billion annually for Hezbollah alone, along with weapons, training, intelligence support, and strategic direction.

The inherent contradiction embedded in

Article 154 deserves particular attention. The text pledges to "scrupulously refrain from all forms of interference in the internal affairs of other nations" while simultaneously mandating support for armed groups operating inside sovereign states — Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and the Palestinian territories. This dual mandate has allowed successive Iranian governments to frame military interventionism as defensive solidarity rather than offensive interference. When Quds Force advisors train militias in Iraq or coordinate Hezbollah operations in Syria, Tehran characterizes these activities as fulfilling the constitutional obligation to support the oppressed — not as violations of other nations' sovereignty.

The assassination of Major General Qasem Soleimani on 3 January 2020 by a U.S. drone strike near Baghdad International Airport removed the architect of Iran's proxy strategy — a figure widely regarded as the second most powerful person in Iran — but it did not dismantle the network he built. By 2025–2026, Iranian-backed militias in Iraq continued attacks on U.S. positions, Hezbollah remained operational in Lebanon despite sustained Israeli military pressure, and the Houthis sustained campaigns in Yemen and against shipping in the Red Sea. The outbreak of the 2026 Iran war on 28 February 2026, in which the United States and Israel launched coordinated strikes against IRGC headquarters, missile sites, and the Supreme Leader's compound in Tehran — resulting in the death of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei — represented an unprecedented escalation. Significant IRGC leadership losses followed, yet the proxy network demonstrated continued



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operational capability: Iraqi militias reportedly conducted up to half of approximately 1,000 drone attacks against Saudi Arabia, and Hezbollah broke the Israel-Lebanon ceasefire with strikes against Israeli forces in southern Lebanon.

The Iranian Constitution's foreign-policy articles are not merely aspirational text — they are operational doctrine. For over four decades, Articles 152 and 154 have provided the legal, ideological, and institutional framework for a foreign-policy apparatus that channels billions of dollars, thousands of personnel, and vast quantities of weapons to non-state armed groups across the Middle East. Understanding this constitutional framework is essential for policymakers, analysts, and the informed public seeking to comprehend why Iran's foreign policy consistently prioritizes extraterritorial armed engagement — and why the proxy network has proven resilient even under extraordinary military pressure in 2026.

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### Key Milestones: Iran, the IRGC, and Proxy Warfare

- **1979** — Islamic Revolution topples Shah; IRGC established; new Constitution adopted by referendum (2–3 Dec 1979)
- **1982** — IRGC deploys ~1,500 trainers to Lebanon's Bekaa Valley; Hezbollah founded with direct Iranian

support

- **1988** — Quds Force formally organized as the IRGC's extraterritorial operations branch
- **1989** — Iranian Constitution revised; foreign-policy articles (Chapter X) retained unchanged
- **2003** — U.S. invasion of Iraq; Quds Force begins organizing and aiding Shia militias against U.S. forces
- **2006** — Hezbollah–Israel war; Iran-supplied rockets and missiles used extensively; conflict ends in UN ceasefire
- **2011–2014** — Arab Spring and Syrian civil war; Quds Force deploys advisors and militia fighters to support Assad regime
- **2019** — U.S. designates the IRGC as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (April 2019), the first such designation for a sovereign nation's military branch
- **January 3, 2020** — Qasem Soleimani, Quds Force commander, assassinated by U.S. drone strike near Baghdad International Airport
- **October 2025** — U.S. sanctions eight individuals and entities supporting IRGC-QF and Iran-aligned militia groups in Iraq (Kata'ib Hezbollah, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq)
- **February 28, 2026** — U.S. and Israel launch military operations against Iran (Operations Epic Fury / Roaring Lion); Supreme Leader Khamenei killed; Hezbollah



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retaliates

- **April 2026** — Iranian-backed Iraqi militias reportedly conducted up to half of ~1,000 drone attacks against Saudi Arabia during the 2026 war; Hezbollah breaks Israel-Lebanon ceasefire

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### Recent Developments (2025–2026)

#### 1. **October 9, 2025 — U.S. Sanctions Network Supporting IRGC and Iraqi Militias**

The U.S. Department of State sanctioned eight individuals and entities for supporting the IRGC, its Quds Force, and two Iran-aligned Iraqi militia groups designated as Foreign Terrorist Organizations: Kata'ib Hezbollah and Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq. The action targeted illicit funding streams financing Iran's exploitation of Iraq's economy and aimed to safeguard Iraqi resources from militia-linked corruption.

Source: U.S. Department of State — <https://www.state.gov/sanctioning-actors-supporting-iran-aligned-militia-groups-in-iraq/>

#### 2. **February 28, 2026 — U.S. and Israel Launch Military Operations Against Iran**

The United States and Israel initiated coordinated military strikes against Iran in an operation codenamed "Epic Fury" (U.S.) and "Roaring Lion" (Israel). Strikes targeted IRGC headquarters, missile sites, and the Supreme Leader's compound in Tehran, resulting in the death of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Iran retaliated with hundreds of

ballistic missiles and drones across the region; Hezbollah launched strikes at Israel from Lebanon.

Source: Britannica — <https://www.britannica.com/event/2026-Iran-war>

#### 3. **April 21, 2026 — Iraqi Militias Behind Half of Drone Attacks on Saudi Arabia**

According to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), Iranian-backed Iraqi militias conducted up to half of the roughly 1,000 drone attacks targeting Saudi Arabia during the 2026 war. Separately, Hezbollah attacked Israeli forces in southern Lebanon for the first time since the Israel-Lebanon ceasefire took effect on April 16, 2026, prompting IDF retaliatory strikes.

Source: Institute for the Study of War — <https://www.understandingwar.org/>

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### Key Items

- **Constitutional mandate as operational doctrine:** Articles 152 and 154 of the Iranian Constitution provide a legal and ideological framework that has been consistently used to justify extraterritorial military support for non-state armed groups across the Middle East — transforming revolutionary language into a decades-long foreign-policy apparatus.

- **Institutional infrastructure:** The IRGC and its Quds Force were purpose-built to execute this constitutional vision, channeling billions of dollars in funding, weapons, and



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training to proxy forces including Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis, and Iraqi Shia militias — creating a durable network that survived the loss of its architect, Qasem Soleimani, in 2020.



- **Ongoing relevance in 2026:** Despite unprecedented military pressure during the 2026 Iran war, significant IRGC leadership losses, and the death of the Supreme Leader, Iran's proxy network has demonstrated continued operational capability — underscoring that the constitutional framework and institutional infrastructure behind it remain relevant analytical lenses for understanding regional conflict.

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### Footnotes

[1] **Constitution adoption:** The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran was approved by national referendum on 2–3 December 1979 and subsequently revised in 1989. The foreign-policy provisions in Chapter X (Articles 152–155) were retained in the revised text. Source: Iran Chamber Society, "The Constitution of Islamic Republic of Iran," Chapter X — Foreign Policy.

[2] **IRGC role and designation:** The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps was established in 1979 following the Islamic Revolution. The Quds Force, its extraterritorial operations branch, was formally organized circa 1988. In April 2019, the U.S. designated the IRGC as a Foreign Terrorist Organization — the first such designation for a government military branch. Source: U.S.

Department of State, "Designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps," April 2019.

[3] **Iran–Hezbollah ties:** Hezbollah was founded in 1982 in Lebanon with direct Iranian support. Approximately 1,500 IRGC Revolutionary Guard trainers were deployed to Lebanon's Bekaa Valley to organize, train, and equip the new militia. Iran has provided Hezbollah with an estimated \$700 million to \$1 billion annually in financial support, along with weapons and strategic guidance. Source: Council on Foreign Relations, "What Is Hezbollah?" updated April 2026; The Iran Primer, "Timeline: Iran and Hezbollah," July 2024.

[4] **Soleimani assassination:** Major General Qasem Soleimani, commander of the IRGC Quds Force, was killed on 3 January 2020 by a U.S. drone strike near Baghdad International Airport, ordered by President Donald Trump. Soleimani was widely regarded as the second most powerful figure in Iran and the architect of its proxy warfare strategy. Source: Congressional Research Service, "U.S. Killing of Qasem Soleimani: Frequently Asked Questions," R46148, January 2020.

[5] **2026 surge in militia activity:** During the 2026 Iran war, Iranian-backed Iraqi militias reportedly conducted up to half of approximately 1,000 drone attacks targeting Saudi Arabia. The Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) sustained significant casualties, with estimates of 80 fighters killed and 270 wounded by April 2026. Multiple senior IRGC commanders were also killed, including the IRGC Commander-in-Chief Major General Mohammad Pakpour. Source: Institute for the Study of War (ISW), "Iran Update Special Report," April 21, 2026; National Security News, "Inside Iran's IRGC," April 15, 2026. □

U.S SENDS A BIG MESSAGE  
TO IRAN

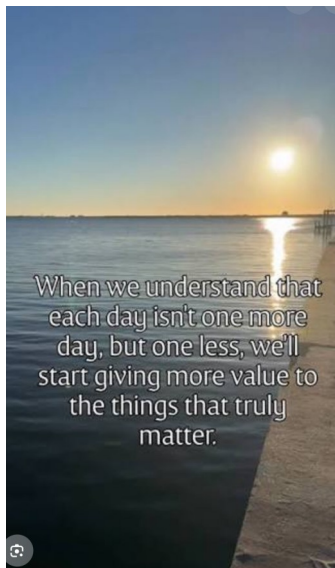




The NOVA 52nd Annual Training Event will be held at the Westgate Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada (3000 Paradise Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89109). July 21-23, 2026

Book Your Room: Attendees **MUST** use the passkey link provided in their registration confirmation to book in the NOVA room block with the government rate (\$126 plus tax). Note: NOVA is not affiliated with third party booking sites. More details see [www.trynova.org](http://www.trynova.org)

# The Good Life Section



## ASSIST

### Memorabilia

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ASSIST Coin (front and back) \$10.00

ASSIST Lapel Pin \$4.00



ASSIST Hat Adjustable \$10.00

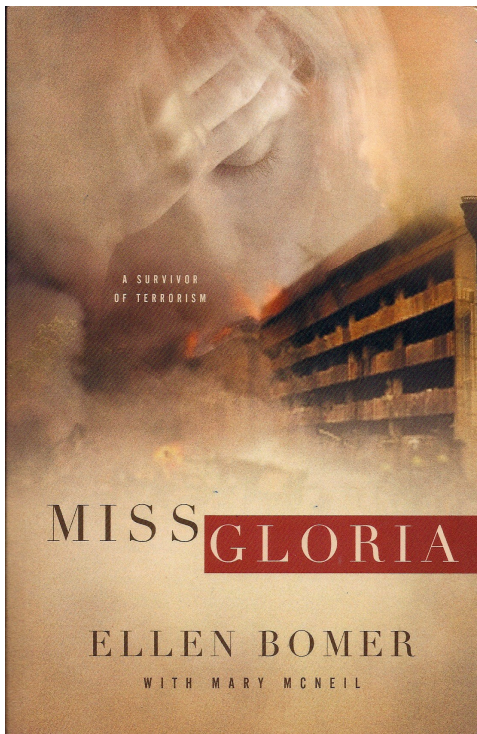


ASSIST T-Shirt \$10.00 L and XL Based on Availability of Size

## ASSIST Calendar

Apr 2—TWA 840 Bombing 1986  
Apr 5—Easter  
Apr 5—Berlin Disco bombing 1986  
Apr 18—Beirut US Embassy Bombing 1983  
April 19—Oklahoma City Bombing 1995  
May 1—NYC Car Bomb 2010  
May 5—Cinco de Mayo  
May 10—Mother's Day  
May 12—Riyadh Western Housing Bombing 2003  
May 16—Armed Forces Day  
May 25—Memorial Day  
Jun 1—Little Rock Recruiting Center Shooting 2009  
Jun 6—D Day (WWII—1944) 81st Anniversary

Jun 14—Flag Day  
Jun 14—Karachi US Consulate Bombing 2002  
Jun 21—Fathers' Day  
Jun 19—Juneteenth  
Note: If we inadvertently omit an important date, please contact us and we will correct



Miss Gloria details the struggles and triumphs of a wonderful lady blinded by the Al Qaeda attack on the United States Embassy, Nairobi, Kenya on August 7, 1998. We highly recommend this book as a must-read.

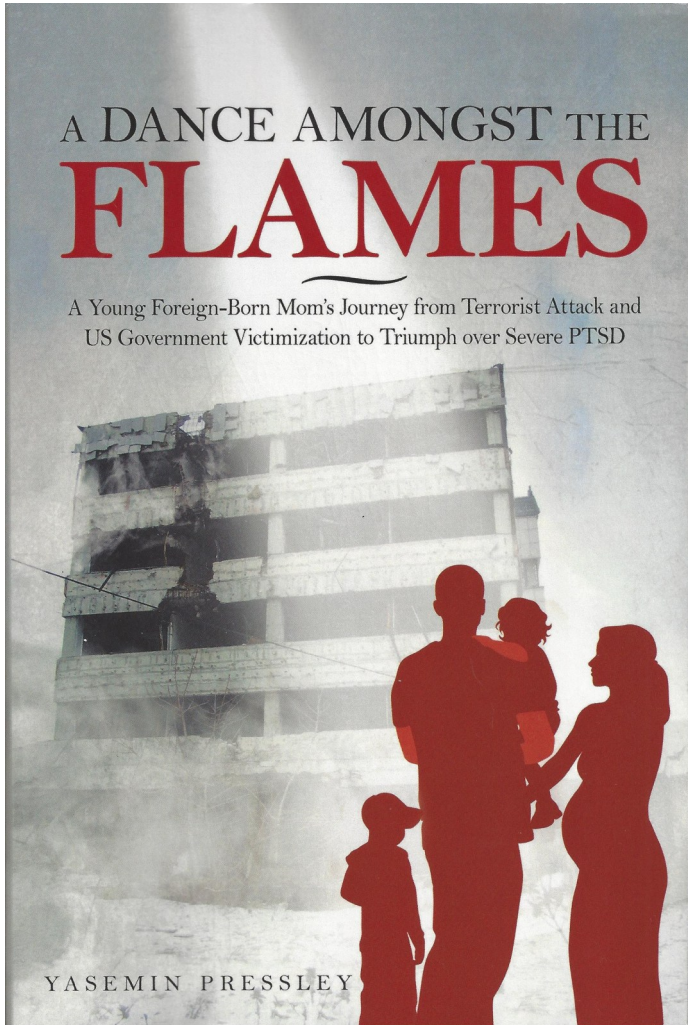
The book is available from the publisher: Redemption Press, 1730 Railroad St, Enumclaw, WA 98022 [www.redemption-press.com](http://www.redemption-press.com) as well as on Amazon Dot Com. [http://www.amazon.com/Miss-Gloria-Terrorism-Ellen-Bomer/dp/1414113668/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1431978093&sr=8-3&keywords=Miss+Gloria](http://www.amazon.com/Miss-Gloria-Terrorism-Ellen-Bomer/dp/1414113668/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1431978093&sr=8-3&keywords=Miss+Gloria)



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ASSIST has a new website: <http://www.assist-survivors.org> .



BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

Ten percent of the proceeds from this book go directly to organizations that honor the injured American military women and men, from their darkest days to every step of their recovery. We need to do all we can to protect their family union and the future of their children.

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Yasemin, a young Muslim Turkish girl, falls in love with a handsome American named Frank in Ankara, Turkey. After they marry and have two children, Yasemin joins her husband working at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.

She can sense that her lifelong dreams are finally within reach. But external forces were set in motion to derail her plans - terrorists bombed the American Embassy in Nairobi on August 7th, 1998, while she and her husband are inside.

Frank is critically injured and flown to Germany for hospitalization. Yasemin follows with her family, physically unharmed but severely suffering from the effects of PTSD. It is then that she is confirmed pregnant with their third child, with Frank on death's doorsteps.

What follows is a tale of grief and struggle, but also of tremendous joy. From her diagnosis and struggle with PTSD treatments to Frank's physical therapy and abandonment by the State Department, Yasemin's story winds between betrayal and renewal as she searches for meaning in her new circumstances, and ultimately turns to God.

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Yasemin was born in Ankara, Turkey, where she spent her formative years with her family and met her husband, Frank. She has a degree in urban planning. Yasemin volunteers as a leader in a Christian organization, which leads women from all backgrounds to God. Yasemin and Frank have three children together and reside in the southern United States.

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*A Dance Amongst the Flames* is a highly recommended new book about the unique experiences of a terrorism survivor. The book is available at your local bookstore or through Amazon® at [https://www.amazon.com/Dance-Amongst-Flames-Foreign-Born-Victimization/dp/0578581515/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=20YC01N2RX455&keywords=a+dance+amongst+the+flames+by+yasemin+pressley&qid=1576686264&sprefix=A+Dance+Am%2Caps%2C160&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Dance-Amongst-Flames-Foreign-Born-Victimization/dp/0578581515/ref=sr_1_1?crid=20YC01N2RX455&keywords=a+dance+amongst+the+flames+by+yasemin+pressley&qid=1576686264&sprefix=A+Dance+Am%2Caps%2C160&sr=8-1) . A preview of the book can be found on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikt9Hk01818> .

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