

**Zacarias, My Brother: The Making of a Terrorist**

**Abd Samad Moussaoui**

**Seven Stories Press**

**224 Pages**

**\$14.95, paperback**

Not exactly the world's most compelling piece of political writing, but a brilliant account of what it means to grow up an alienated Muslim in Europe today. Written by alleged 9/11 hijacking conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui's older brother Abd, *The Making of a Terrorist* is a terrific family memoir cum sociological analysis of what led Zacarias to fundamentalist Islam, and ultimately, into the arms of Al-Qaeda.

First published in France, this English-language translation should be of particular interest to politically progressive American readers still naively enamored with France's ferocious opposition to America's invasion of Iraq. A damning portrait of French racism towards its Arab population, *Zacarias, My Brother* provides a chilling portrait of contemporary Gallic provinciality, from French intolerance of interracial dating to color-coded discrimination in the workplace.

Particularly fascinating is Abd's brief but to the point discussion of Wahabi political ideology, and how the influence of its foremost proponent - the 20th century Egyptian theologian Sayid Qutb - has impacted contemporary Islamic militants. Equally prescient is Abd's account of the lack of democratic cultural structures within contemporary European Islam, and how little anyone within this community questions the wisdom of its clerical leadership.

*-Joel Schalit*

**Politicide: Ariel Sharon's War Against the Palestinians**

**Baruch Kimmerling**

**Verso Books**

**160 Pages**

**\$22, hardback**

Baruch Kimmerling's *Politicide* is an incendiary, if at times fragmented, political semi-biography of Ariel Sharon and his towering influence over Israeli politics. A sociology professor with dual appointments at Jerusalem's Hebrew University and the University of Toronto, Kimmerling's prose is remarkably accessible for the non-academic reader, despite the profoundly sophisticated reading he provides of Sharon and his distressing legacy. At times verging on an overheated polemic, *Politicide* is a characteristically Israeli piece of left-wing political analysis not unlike an op-ed piece in Israel's leading daily, *Ha'aretz*, extended to a book-length treatise.

Kimmerling attempts to unify *Politicide* around his notion of Sharon's commitment to the 'politicide' of the Palestinian people: the destruction of Palestinian political identity. Unfortunately,

Kimmerling finds it difficult to discern who is responsible for this idea - whether it's an Israeli ethos synonymous with Zionism, or something that young Arik assimilated and ran with. However, Kimmerling provides equally dramatic and engrossing accounts of both Sharon's life, and the history of the Israel Defense Forces, which are exemplary pieces of critical military historiography.

*-Joel Schalit*