The global narcotics trade is central to the ‘war against terrorism’ and military operations against Osama bin Laden’s Al Qaeda organization. It funds all sides in the Afghan civil war, as well as a substantial proportion of Al Qaeda’s operations. A powerful and flexible network of traffickers, traders, producers and processors operates across factional, ethnic and national borders with virtual impunity. This will sustain Bin Laden and the Taliban and play a key role in shaping the post-intervention order. Meanwhile, the impact on the streets of Europe and the global drug market will be enormous.


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