

Singapore Daily

February 17, 2005

## **Book review: Al Jazeera: How Arab TV Challenged the World by Hugh Miles**

"All this trouble from a matchbox like this."

That's how Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak once described the cramped 5-sq m newsroom of Qatar-based TV station Al Jazeera.

The Arabic-language satellite TV network, with more than 50 million viewers, gained notoriety for being Osama bin Laden's preferred communications outlet, broadcasting his taped statements and interviews with the alleged masterminds of the 911 attacks.

Over the past few years, Al Jazeera has taught the Arab world about democracy and revealed the true sentiment of the region in a way that CNN and Fox News couldn't.

Miles does a good job of chronicling Al Jazeera's journey - from its 1996 birth to the present day - in a simple but lively way that makes for a good read. - Tan Yo-Hinn