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Terrorism

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Abstract

Review of book titled "Terrorism," edited by Rosemary H.T. O'Kane

KEYWORDS: terrorism, anthology of terrorism readings,

Terrorism

Rosemary H.T. O’Kane, Editor

Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing, July 2005

Two volume set: Vol. 1, 430 pp.; Vol. 2, 516 pp.

\$425 (Hardcover) (\$382.50 online) ISBN 1 84376 064 9

Ordering information and more details are available at: <http://www.e-elgar.com>

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This two-volume set could be considered the mother of all terrorism compilations since its 950+ pages provide a discerning selection of readings on the topic of terrorism. The author may not be well known to U.S. readers since she is Professor of Comparative Political Theory at Keele University in the U.K. Nevertheless, she provides a comprehensive selection of some of the most significant published papers and articles on terrorism from both U.S. and other countries’ publications.

In all, the two volumes contain forty-six readings, dating from 1964 to 2002. The editor has organized the readings under ten categories, providing varying perspectives on the origins and dimensions of terrorism. She provides a very thoughtful introduction, titled “Theorizing Terrorism,” in which she draws from many historic examples to set the content for the selected readings. In the final category of the collection, entitled “Countering Terrorism,” the editor selected eight readings that propose various response options.

Since it is not feasible to provide an assessment of the forty-six readings, either individually or in the aggregate, it seems best to provide readers with details about the contents of the set so they can make their own decisions about whether or not to acquire this set. The full table of contents for both volumes is provided below, to allow readers to determine how the editor has constructed this compilation of readings, as well as the array of facets and authors included.

Terrorism: Volume I***Part I: The Concept of Terrorism***

1. E.V. Walter (1964), ‘Violence and the Process of Terror’
2. Martha Crenshaw Hutchinson (1972), ‘The Concept of Revolutionary

Terrorism'

3. Paul Wilkinson (1973), 'Three Questions on Terrorism'
4. Ze'ev Iviarsky (1977), 'Individual Terror: Concept and Typology'
5. Richard Shultz (1978), 'The Limits of Terrorism in Insurgency Warfare: The Case of the Viet Cong'
6. A. James Gregor (1982), 'Fascism's Philosophy of Violence and the Concept of Terror'
7. C.A.J. Coady (1985), 'The Morality of Terrorism'
8. Walter Laqueur (1986), 'Reflections on Terrorism'

Part II: Regimes of Terror

9. Rosemary H.T. O'Kane (1995), 'The National Causes of State Construction in France, Russia and China'
10. Rosemary H.T. O'Kane (2000), 'Post-revolutionary State Building in Ethiopia, Iran and Nicaragua: Lessons from Terror'
11. H.C. Greisman (1977), 'Social Meanings of Terrorism: Reification, Violence, and Social Control'
12. Michael Stohl (1984), 'National Interests and State Terrorism in International Affairs'
13. Rosemary H.T. O'Kane (1993), 'Cambodia in the Zero Years: Rudimentary Totalitarianism'
14. Rosemary H.T. O'Kane (1997), 'Modernity, the Holocaust and Politics'

Part III: Terrorist Groups and Religion

15. David C. Rapoport (1984), 'Fear and Trembling: Terrorism in Three Religious Traditions'
16. Michael Scott Doran (2002), 'Somebody Else's Civil War'
17. Valentine M. Moghadam (2002), 'Violence, Terrorism and Fundamentalism: Some Feminist Observations'

Part IV: Terrorist Groups and their Underlying Causes

18. Martha Crenshaw (1981), 'The Causes of Terrorism'
19. E. Moxon-Browne (1981), 'The Water and the Fish: Public Opinion and the Provisional IRA in Northern Ireland'
20. Francisco J. Llera, José M. Mata and Cynthia L. Irvin (1993), 'ETA: From Secret Army to Social Movement – The Post-Franco Schism of the Basque Nationalist Movement'

21. Ehud Sprinzak (1995), 'Right-Wing Terrorism in Comparative Perspective: The Case of Split Delegitimization'

Terrorism: Volume II

Part I: Terrorism Groups and The Dynamics of New Social Movements

1. Alberto Melucci (1981), 'New Movements, Terrorism, and the Political System: Reflections on the Italian Case'
2. Donatella della Porta and Sidney Tarrow (1986), 'Unwanted Children: Political Violence and the Cycle of Protest in Italy, 1966–1973'
3. Peter Fritzsche (1989), 'Terrorism in the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy: Legacy of the '68 Movement or "Burden of Fascism"?''
4. Robert W. White (1989), 'From Peaceful Protest to Guerrilla War: Micromobilization of the Provisional Irish Republican Army'

Part II: Psychological Explanations for Terrorism

5. William F. May (1974), 'Terrorism as Strategy and Ecstasy'
6. Raymond R. Corrado (1981), 'A Critique of the Mental Disorder Perspective of Political Terrorism'
7. Jerrold M. Post (1984), 'Notes on a Pschodynamic Theory of Terrorist Behavior'
8. Grant Wardlaw (1987), 'The Psychology of Political Terrorism'
9. Martha Crenshaw (1992), 'Decisions to Use Terrorism: Psychological Constraints on Instrumental Reasoning'

Part III: Rational Choice Explanations

10. Anne Rathbone and Charles K. Rowley (2002), 'Terrorism'
11. William F. Shugart II (2002), 'September 11, 2001'

Part IV: Terrorist Group Organization

12. J.K. Zawodny (1981), 'Infrastructures of Terrorist Organizations'
13. Martha Crenshaw (1985), 'An Organizational Approach to the Analysis of Political Terrorism'

Part V: Strategy and Tactics

14. David Fromkin (1975), 'The Strategy of Terrorism'

15. H. Edward Price, Jr. (1977), 'The Strategy and Tactics of Revolutionary Terrorism'
16. Brian Jenkins, Janera Johnson and David Ronfeldt (1978), 'Numbered Lives: Some Statistical Observations From 77 International Hostage Episodes'
17. Manoj Joshi (1996), 'On the Razor's Edge: The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam'

Part VI: Countering Terrorism

18. Ronald D. Crelinsten (1978), 'International Political Terrorism: A Challenge for Comparative Research'
19. Ariel Merari (1978), 'A Classification of Terrorist Groups'
20. Henry Bienen and Robert Gilpin (1980), 'Economic Sanctions as a Response to Terrorism'
21. Paul Wilkinson (1981), 'Proposals for Government and International Responses to Terrorism'
22. Todd Sandler, John T. Tschirhart and Jon Cauley (1983), 'A Theoretical Analysis of Transnational Terrorism'
23. Nicholas O. Berry (1987), 'Theories on the Efficacy of Terrorism'
24. Jerrold M. Post (1987), 'Rewarding Fire with Fire: Effects of Retaliation on Terrorist Group Dynamics'
25. Donatella della Porta (1992), 'Institutional Responses to Terrorism: The Italian Case'

For those with an abiding interest in the topic of terrorism and a need for historic precedents in order to understand the present situation, this set of readings would be a valuable addition to their personal library. Given the size of the two volume set and the high price tag, however, this is not an acquisition for the casual student of terrorism. It would appear to be a worthwhile asset for a specialized research center or project team with an on-going interest in terrorism research. Should you want to work with these content-rich volumes, you might ask your organization's library to acquire a set for reference.