

Unconventional Terrorism

In the Home and Homeland

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with contributions by others

(final list tbd)

[This is an old draft and must be understood as such, esp. with the refs in the Preface to people and orgs now somewhat outmoded - it is just an indicator of the general nature of the book in progress]

Preface

Terrorism is understood by many people, including experts within academic and government institutions, to be an organized activity with political motivations and associated with radical Islamic groups such as al Qaeda or Hezbollah. The contemporary press has understandably focused attention in the post-911 era upon goal-oriented, highly organized and in some cases state-supported or state-sanctioned terrorism linked with Wahhabi Muslim movements and the figurative head of Osama bin Laden has never been far from the minds of the general reader nor from the volumes of reports and papers generated by specialists in the field.

Most reports on modern terrorism will describe al Qaeda and their relatives as being unconventional in methods and tactics. “Asymmetric” is another favorite buzzword. The claim of this book is that Osama and Company are actually quite conventional these days, even as they may plan or at least wish to be in a position to execute another 911 sudden impact event.

There are other forms of terrorism, some of which are contributory to the development of the highly organized forms that have been in the foreground of attention since 2001 especially. Some of these may not be considered to be “terrorism” explicitly by the accredited experts. However, this book will argue, the evidence is present that terrorism outside of the political framework and goal-oriented context, including practices and states of social interaction and individual attitude found in the domestic and community environments – so-called “terrorism in the home” – is a major foundation and resource

for the success in the motivation, design and management of organized political terrorism. There is a symbiotic relationship, not a simplistic cause-effect connection, and the relationship works both ways in terms of mutual support. This is the realm of the unconventional – not so much in terms of “unconventional warfare” but unconventional in not being considered, not being addressed, as a form of terrorism and warfare against the society.

This book does not purport to disclose bold new revelations nor causal explanations. It is not a YAT exposition – Yet Another Theory – and it says very little about al Qaeda, bin Laden, al Zarqawi or Abu Hafv. It is critical of much that has been put forth in publications and projects of the past which have tended to be sensationalist or aggravational in effect, serving no constructive purpose and only feeding more the sense of alarm and anxiety, not building a fabric of preparedness and overcoming. This book does aim boldly to make a difference in people being able to adapt and prepare for not only explicit terrorism but the general class of events and situations known as ECP – Emergent Critical Processes – things that happen suddenly, out of the blue, with high impact, high consequence, and generally not for the better. This book aims to do what a lot of politicians and appointed officials, especially in state and local “me too” homeland security councils, governor’s committees, university “homeland security degree” programs, and other post-911 organizations have claimed to be doing, namely to help the society as a whole, individuals in particular, be more prepared and able to respond.

The need to address ECP situations as well as explicit organized terrorism in the same context and dialogue is important. It is essential that we do so. ECP of the natural form, including but not limited to hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis, or of a different sort, economic upheavals and crashes, oil price skyrocketing, and the threat of economic insecurity on massive scales (e.g., potential collapse of Social Security in the USA), are what breeds and fuels the underlying anxiety and depression that is the “agar” nutrient bed for activities like Jihad in all its forms.

Terrorist actions have not brought the world to its knees and counterterrorist projects, particularly of the extravagant military sort, have not reduced the fervor or the ranks of new recruits and believers. Moreover, the destabilizing effects of stress and depression in many social strata, particularly those of target societies such as the United States, continues unabated and fueled by forces that are not originating in classic “terrakts” from the Middle East or anywhere else. Here, it is claimed, are reasons for susceptibility, vulnerability, and also an increasing “open door” to organized terrorism in spite of all the homeland security and emergency preparedness programs and mega-budgets. The anxieties and depressions that have become endemic in contemporary modern and particularly within economically “upscale” society are not because of the terrorist threat nor are the reason for organized radical Islamic terrorism, but they do fuel a terrorism that may be a worse threat to society than the one so publicized.

This book is not written by a lifelong career specialist in regional conflict, history or international affairs. However, along with some very well-established expertise on the part of the four contributing specialist authors, the principal author has engaged in

substantive study of nonconventional processes that underlie both organized terrorist behavior as well as forms of terrorism that are not in the spotlight of media attention due to a number of reasons including lack of dramatic and major impacts upon large numbers of people. This book is unconventional in a number of respects including some suggested theses and some critiques made against prior countermeasure practices and policies. In fact, within this book can be found conflicting arguments and positions as well, intentionally so, in order that the reader can foster creative thinking that will lead to constructive understanding about what is terrorism, what are its psychological, social, and technical foundations, and how to overcome it.

The rationale for this book stems from the fact that nonconventional, unorthodox, asymmetric forms of terrorism are important and increasingly attractive strategic measures being used by active terrorist organizations. This is particularly the case since the reaction of the world community to 9-11. In response to the growth of national and international efforts to combat terrorist groups, those who are committed to the overthrow of modern non-sectarian, non-extreme Islamic society (or other variants such as in the case of Aryan Nation or Nashi type movements) have placed increasing attention and resources upon the design of nonconventional types of action. One of the strongest of the nonconventional tactics, discussed at length in this volume, is not a particular device, not a dirty bomb, not a biothreat, not a suicide attack. It is the taking advantage of the society's own weakest link, its softest vulnerability, found in the anxiety and depression epidemic that is ongoing without any prior bombs or mass terrakts, and using that as both a shield and free pass for any other kind of debilitating tactics, not all of which have a mark that can be associated with a specific enemy.

[Tentative chapter/section headings]

Introduction

The Myth of Homeland and the basis for the Depression Epidemic

The Myth of Social Security

Terrorism (that) starts at Home

The Vulnerability of Modern Homeless (Clanless) Society

Unconventional Terrorism – M J Dudziak

Looking the Other Way

(or, Imagining that Big Brother can provide what we have chosen to cast aside)

Complex Non-linear Problems demand Non-linear Solutions

Homeland Security can only start in the Home and in the Streets

The Oxymoron-Mythos of Classified Intelligence

From YouTube to Nomad Eyes - an architecture for Community

How to Attract Terrorists

How to Attract Civilian Responders

Case Study : Moscow 2004

Case Study : London 2005

Case Study : Washington 2008