

## Counterterrorism Bookshelf: 21 Books on Terrorism & Counter-Terrorism-Related Subjects

Reviewed by Joshua Sinai

*So many books are published on terrorism- and counterterrorism-related subjects that it is difficult to catch up on a large backlog of monographs and volumes received for review. In order to deal with this backlog, this column consists of capsule reviews and tables of contents of 21 recently published books. The books are arranged topically.*

### **Terrorism – General**

Caron E. Gentry, *Disordered Violence: How Gender, Race and Heteronormativity Structure Terrorism* (Edinburgh, Scotland, UK: Edinburgh University Press, 2020), 216 pp., US \$ 110.00 [Hardcover], ISBN: 978-1-4744-2480-6.

This book's objective is to demonstrate how primarily Western counter-terrorism, at government and academic levels, views terrorism "along lines of long-standing pre-existing cultural biases; how this leads to a seemingly stark binary between the good counter-terrorist and the bad terrorist; thus, how terrorism is drawn not as a political struggle but as a moral one" (p. 3). By 'securitizing' terrorism and not viewing it as a 'moral' challenge, the author criticizes this 'instrumentalized' response by "white men in the Global North" as perpetuating the maintenance of their "power hierarchies" in society (pp. 3-5). In another critique, in the chapter on "Misogynistic Terrorism," the author criticizes the academics she links to 'Orthodox Terrorism Studies' for intentionally ignoring the violence by 'white' terrorists against women, citing as her examples the anti-female sentiments by Dylan Roof and Elliot Rodger. In this reviewer's opinion, this is patently false. This reviewer has published several articles about their attacks, and other academics have written about the threats posed by Incel, the misogynistic extremist movement. Joan Smith has published an excellent book on this subject in "Home Grown: How Domestic Violence Turns Men into Terrorists" (Riverrun, 2019), which was previously reviewed in this journal (October 2019, Vol. 13, No. 5). Finally, whether intentionally or not, the author does not discuss the misogynistic violence by numerous 'non-white' Islamist terrorists in the U.S., such as Tamerlan Tsarnaev, Omar Mateen, and others, as well as the misogynistic genocide committed by Islamist groups such as ISIS and Boko Haram. In conclusion, the author is correct that a definition of terrorism needs to "be built on the notion that terrorism itself can be approached objectively," but her criticism that the current definition "is formed by an epistemic bias that upholds the dominant global system" (pp. 199-200) is not the solution required to improve the academic study of terrorism and counterterrorism. The author is Professor in the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews.

*Table of Contents:* Introduction: Welcome to the Grey; The Structural Significance of Terrorism; Intersecting Terrorism Studies; Strange Bedfellows: What Happens When We Ask the Other Question?; Ir/rationality: Radicalisation, 'Black Extremism' and Prevent Tragedies; What Does Not Get Counted: Misogynistic Terrorism; Conclusion: Disordered Violence.

### **Terrorism – Psychology**

Sagit Yehoshua, *Terrorist Minds: From Social-Psychological Profiling to Assessing the Risk* (Hackensack, NJ: World Scientific Scientific Publ., 2020), 316 pp., US \$ 128.00 [Hardcover], ISBN: 978-9-8112-1017-4.

This is an important and conceptually innovative application of the social-psychological profiling of a representative sample of 18 incarcerated Palestinian terrorists in Israeli prisons in order to develop risk assessment tools to understand how certain individuals decide to join terrorist groups. Most of the field research for the book was carried out between 2004 and 2006, with the cooperation of the Intelligence Department of the Israeli prison system. The 18 incarcerated Palestinian prisoners occupied leadership positions within their terrorist organizations, such as Fatah, Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and they agreed to be part of the research as long as their identities were anonymized. Following the author's overview of the

three Palestinian terrorist groups, and an extensive discussion of profiling terrorists, including the social-psychological/socio-economic components in profiling, the author attempts to find out whether such terrorists exhibit psychopathic and criminal personalities. Due to these terrorist groups nationalistic motivations, the author finds that “it is difficult to establish a personality profile, even a criminal personality, among terrorist leaders in prisons since they do not generally have criminal personalities” (p. 181). Dr. Yehoshua finds that “they are very responsible for their actions and their surroundings and invest a great deal of themselves in order to promote their aspirations and their goals, and in order to provide for the organization members for whom they are responsible” (p. 181). One may ask, however, whether such findings would apply to the current cohort of lone actor Palestinian terrorists, many of whom are reportedly highly troubled individuals who turn to terrorist-type attacks against Israeli targets (whether civilian or military) in order to redeem themselves and become martyrs, as opposed to the leadership echelons of these organizations who expect to continue to hold privileged leadership positions while they are incarcerated in Israeli prisons. This book’s excellent discussion of the theories and concepts involved in profiling terrorists, including those who are incarcerated, is a major contribution to the academic discipline on these issues. The author is an Israeli criminologist specializing in psychological profiling and risk assessment of terrorists.

*Table of Contents:* Preface; Introduction; Literature Review; Methodology; Sociological Influence Factors; Personality Profile; Mindset; Leadership Profile; Imprisonment; Analysis of the Social-Psychological Profile; Assessing the Risk; Conclusion – From Profiling to Assessing the Risk Limitations; Appendices.

### **Counterterrorism - Military**

Andreas Krieg and Jean-Marc Rickli, *Surrogate Warfare: The Transformation of War in the Twentieth Century* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2019), 244 pp., US \$ 104.95 [Hardcover], US \$ 34.95 [Paperback], ISBN: 978-1-2661-6679-0.

This is a conceptually innovative and important account of how wars involving state and non-state actor adversaries are increasingly being waged by the outsourcing of their strategic, operational and tactical responsibilities of warfare to human and technological surrogates, as explained in the book’s back cover, “to minimize the costs of war.” This phenomenon ranges from states’ arming their proxy groups, using weaponized drones to attack terrorists and insurgents, to employing cyber-based propaganda to counter extremist narratives. Even insurgents employ surrogates in their warfare, such as using some of their adherents to post their extremist videos on the Internet or calling on their adherents to carry out ‘lone actor’ attacks on their behalf in the foreign countries where they live but which are ‘closed’ to the terrorist groups. Regarding the use of digital technologies as surrogates, the authors observe that they “can be a powerful surrogate, complementing psychological and information operations of both state and nonstate actors” (p. 98). Andreas Krieg is Assistant Professor at the School of Security Studies at King’s College London. Jean-Marc Rickli is head of global risk and resilience at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and a Research Fellow at King’s College London.

*Table of Contents:* Introduction; The History of Surrogate Warfare; The Context of Neotrinitarian War; Conceptualizing Surrogate Warfare; Externalizing the Burden of War to the Machine; Patron-Surrogate Relations and the Problem of Control and Autonomy; Toward a Just Surrogate War; Iran’s Externalization of Strategic Defense through Surrogate Warfare; Conclusion.

Michael P. Noonan, *Irregular Soldiers and Rebellious States: Small-Scale U.S. Interventions Abroad* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2021), 206 pp., US \$ 90.00 [Hardcover], US \$ 40.00 [Paperback], ISBN: 978-1-4422-7130-2.

This book is an excellent and comprehensive primer on the components involved in small-scale military interventions by the United States in overseas conflicts to support friendly governments to defend themselves from insurgent-type rebellions. In U.S. military doctrine, the author explains, such intervention is termed as foreign internal defense (FID), and it also involves offensive military operations in the form of unconventional operations and activities, termed unconventional warfare (UW). Both FID and UW also involve “many actors,

such as people from the intelligence community (IC) or development personnel” (p. 3). Cumulatively, the author points out, these types of operations in such “small-scale” interventions are referred to as “indirect approaches” (p. 3). To examine the author’s thesis, numerous cases of small-scale and not so small interventions by the U.S. military over the years are discussed, such as Vietnam, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, and Iraq. The concluding chapter presents the author’s findings and recommendations to improve U.S. military performance in small-scale interventions, such as to “accept that results will vary over time” (p. 152), to be flexible in the overall strategy, and to incorporate “information and cyber capabilities for indirect interventions” (p. 158). The author, a retired U.S. Army military officer, is a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, in Philadelphia, PA.

*Table of Contents:* Prologue: Irregular Soldiers and Rebellious States; Uses of Force, the American Ways of War, and a Disordered World; Indirect Strategy, Advisors, and the American Military Profession; Defensive Indirect Interventions - Foreign Internal Defense; Offensive Indirect Interventions - Unconventional Warfare; Irregular Soldiers and Rebellious States - Past, Present, Future; Appendix A: U.S. “Irregular” & “Traditional” Operations Abroad, 1798-2018; Appendix B: Combatant Command Authorities and U.S. Special Operations Command as a Unified Combatant Command.

Jim Storr, *The Hall of Mirrors: War and Warfare in the Twentieth Century* (Warwick, England, UK: Helion & Company/Havertown, PA: Casemate, 2018), 312 pp., US \$ 39.95 [Hardcover], ISBN: 978-1-9123-9085-4.

This is one of the most insightful books on military warfare (the conduct of war) this reviewer has read. The conduct of war, the author explains, “is largely the result of strategy. Their *conduct* is largely a matter of campaigns and tactics, informed in places by strategic decisions. Military organisations and technology also figure” (p. xii). This framework is applied to analyzing the course and outcome of numerous wars, whether initiated for defensive or offensive reasons, such as the First and Second World Wars, the Arab-Israeli Wars, as well as the American involvement in Vietnam. The conduct of counterinsurgency and counterterrorism is also discussed, with the author observing that “For the government, military success occurs when the insurgent can no longer take recourse to violence. That is unlikely to be clear-cut. The insurgents will typically just drift away, COIN [Counterinsurgency – JS] forces erode support, deny success, prevent recruitment, reduce the insurgents’ freedom of action, interdict operations, capture arms and kill or capture insurgents” (p. 212). In another valuable insight, the author writes that at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels of warfare, “A campaign that decides a war is strategically decisive. A battle that decides a campaign is operationally decisive. An action that decides a battle or engagement is tactically decisive” (p. 256). Overall, the author notes, a strategically decisive victory in war “is something which resolves or settles the military goals of the war” (p. 257). The book’s narrative is illustrated by numerous figures. This book is highly recommended as an indispensable guide for understanding the components of effective warfare and how these have played out in significant wars in the modern era. The author is a former British Army officer who has taught at several military academies in the United Kingdom and Norway.

*Table of Contents:* Introduction; The Dawn of the Century; The Great War; Douglas Haig, Master of Manoeuvre Warfare; Four Years of Warfare; Who Is Afraid of Virginia Woolf?; The Proper Application of Overwhelming Force; ‘If You Do Not Destroy Them ...’; Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat; The New World Order; 99 Red Balloons; March and Fight; The Evolutionary Niche; ‘It Is Clearly Illegal ...’; Business in Great Waters; The Hall of Mirrors; Appendices: I Army Formations; II Post-War Tanks and Infantry Fighting Vehicles.

Matthias Strohn (Ed.), *Winning Wars: The Enduring Nature and Changing Character of Victory from Antiquity to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (Philadelphia, PA: Casemate, 2020), 336 pp., US \$ 65.00 [Hardcover], ISBN: 978-1-9527-1500-6.

The contributors to this important edited volume examine the issue of measures of effectiveness in warfare in terms of winning or losing wars in sixteen case studies. For counterterrorism analysts, the chapter by Aaron Edwards on “The Provisional IRA and the Elusive Concept of ‘Winning’ since 1969” is of special interest, with the author finding that “there remains no academic consensus on the question of who won and who lost

the war” (p. 239). In the volume’s concluding chapter, Andrew Sharpe finds that “It is possible to win, in war, providing clear and achievable goals are set. Whether those goals are micro-tactical (seize and hold the bridge at Ponte Grande) or grand-strategic (force unconditional surrender upon the Axis powers) the setting and subsequent achievement of those goals does amount to a win.” (p. 292). Although much of the book’s focus is about winning in conventional wars, the insights about the components in measuring effectiveness in such warfare also apply to assessing effectiveness in counterterrorism. The volume’s editor is Head of Historical Analysis at the Centre for Historical Analysis and Conflict Research (CHACR), in Camberley, England.

*Table of Contents:* Introduction – Sir Hew Strachan; ‘Winning’ in Classical Antiquity and the Roman Conception of Victory; The European Concept of ‘Winning’ in the Middle Ages; The Early Modern Period in Europe, 1500–1715; From the Age of Reason to the European Nation State, 1750–1850; ‘Winning’ in World War I, 1914–1919; ‘Winning’ in the World Wars. The British Conceptions of the War-Time Leaders Lloyd George and Winston Churchill, 1914–1945; ‘Winning’ in the Cold War and the Nuclear Age, 1945–1990; Western Strategic Goals and ‘Winning’ in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001; A Hollow Victory? Assad’s Regime and ‘Winning’ the Conflict in Syria since 2001; The Impact of History, Politics and Religion: Three Contrasting Conceptions of ‘Winning’ in Iran since 1979; The Chinese Concept of ‘Winning’; A Decisive British Victory? The Confrontation with Indonesia, 1963–1966; The Ambiguity of Victory: The Spectrum of ‘Winning’ in African History; The Provisional IRA and the Elusive Concept of ‘Winning’ since 1969; Russian Views of ‘Winning’: ‘Velikaya Pobeda’, ‘pobedonosnaya voina’; ‘Winning the Peace’: The Peacebuilding Paradigm and its Implications for Peacekeepers in the 21st Century; Conclusion: So, What is ‘Winning’?

Daniel Whittingham and Stuart Mitchell, *Counterinsurgency: Theory and Practice* (Philadelphia, PA: Casemate, 2021), 192 pp., US \$ 29.95 [Hardcover], ISBN: 978-1-6120-0948-3.

This is an excellent account of the components of effectiveness in counterinsurgency campaigns. The objective of counterinsurgency, the authors explain, is to “defeat an insurgency either locally, regionally or internationally. This may rely on a combination of political, military, legal, psychological, social, civic or economic means” (p. xxii). Notable counterinsurgency campaigns are discussed, such as Britain’s campaigns in pre-independence Israel’s Mandatory Palestine (1944-48), Malaya (1948-60), Kenya (1952-60), and Northern Ireland (1969-1997). The French counterinsurgency campaign in Algeria (1954-62) is considered one of the last counterinsurgencies by a European colonial power, with the Algerian insurgents succeeding in winning their independence from France. Several counterinsurgency campaigns by the United States are also discussed, such as Vietnam (1954-75), which the authors contend “was essentially unwinnable and should never have been fought at all” (p. 36), Iraq (2003-present), and Afghanistan (late 2001-present). The accounts of these campaigns are accompanied by a valuable discussion of the evolution of counterinsurgency doctrines in the British and American militaries. Mr. Mitchell is Senior Lecturer at the Department of War Studies, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and Mr. Whittingham is Lecturer in the History of Warfare and Conflict at the Department of History, University of Birmingham.

*Table of Contents:* Introduction; Timeline; The Roots of Counterinsurgency; Counterinsurgency, 1945-2000; A British Way in Counterinsurgency? 1945-2000; Modern Counterinsurgency: Iraq and Afghanistan 2001-14; Conclusion.

### **Counterterrorism – Intelligence**

Jonathan M. Acuff, et al., *Introduction to Intelligence: Institutions, Operations, and Analysis* (Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE/CQ Press, 2021), 440 pp., US \$ 85.00 [Paperback], ISBN: 978-1-5443-7467-3.

This textbook is an excellent, comprehensive, and detailed overview of the world of intelligence in all its dimensions: the history of intelligence, significant intelligence agencies worldwide, how intelligence analyses and operations are conducted, covert action, counterintelligence, and emerging global threats. Regarding the utilization of intelligence to counter terrorism, Jonathan M. Acuff, one of the textbook’s authors, observes that intelligence analysts need to be aware of the new wave of terrorism, which is defined by religious beliefs, and is led by al Qaida and the Islamic State; that it is characterized by the prevalence of small cells or lone wolves; that certain groups are intent on acquiring weapons of mass destruction; and that the United States, in particular,

is threatened by domestic groups, particularly far-right-wing types (including QAnon), and that a domestic anti-terrorism statute is required to counter them. As a textbook, the chapters include informative side boxes, tables, figures, and photos to illustrate the text, and they conclude with sections on key concepts and additional readings. The textbook is highly recommended for introductory survey courses in intelligence.

*Table of Contents:* Introduction; Intelligence History; Intelligence and Security Institutions: Organizations and Processes; Comparative Intelligence Systems; Intelligence Operations; Counterintelligence; Covert Action; Cyberspace Operations and the Information Environment; Intelligence Regulation and Governance; Inter-Agency Communications; Intelligence Analysis; Analytic Methods; The Ethics of Intelligence; Threats to the United States and Its Interests.

Huw Dylan, David V. Gioe and Michael S. Goodman, *The CIA and the Pursuit of Security: History, Documents and Contexts* (Edinburgh, Scotland, UK: Edinburgh University Press, 2020), 456 pp., US \$ 125.00 [Hardcover], ISBN: 978-1-4744-2884-2.

This is an important and authoritative documentary history of the Central Intelligence Agency's most significant operations and activities since its inception in 1947. It is a compilation of 25 declassified documents, with each document introduced by the authors' commentary for a contextual understanding of how it fit into the CIA's operations in response to that period's events. Of special interest to counterterrorism are the documents on watching the rise of Ayatollah Khomeini, the CIA and 9/11, and the CIA's role in the rendition, detention, and interrogation of al Qaida-affiliated terrorists. This compilation is a valuable primary reference resource for analysts on intelligence issues. Dr. Huw Dylan is a Lecturer in Intelligence and International Security at the Department of War Studies, King's College London. Dr. David Gioe is Associate Professor of History at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Michael S. Goodman is Professor of Intelligence and International Affairs in the Department of War Studies, King's College London and Visiting Professor at the Norwegian Defence Intelligence School.

*Table of Contents:* Foreword by Michael Morell; List of documents; Introduction; Intelligence for an American Century: Creating the CIA; The Berlin Tunnel: A 'Gangster Act'; The development of CIA covert action; The CIA and the USSR: The Challenge of Understanding the Soviet Threat; Anglo-American Intelligence Liaison and the Outbreak of the Korean War; CIA and the Bomber and Missile Gap; The CIA and Cuba: The Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis; The CIA in Vietnam; The CIA and Arms Control; Counter-Intelligence and Yuri Nosenko; 1975: The Year of the 'Intelligence Wars'; Watching Khomeini; The CIA and the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan; Martial Law in Poland; Able Archer and the NATO War Scare; The Soviet Leadership and Kremlinology in the 1980s; The CIA and the Persian Gulf War of 1991; Aldrich Ames; The System was Blinking Red: The Peace Dividend and the Road to 9/11; Reckoning and Redemption: The 9/11 Commission, the Director of National Intelligence, and CIA at War; Iraq and WMD; The Terrorist Hunters Become Political Quarry: The CIA and Rendition, Detention and Interrogation; Innovation at CIA: From Sputnik to Silicon Valley and VENONA to Vault 7; Entering the Electoral Fray: CIA and Russian Meddling in the 2016 Election; Flying Blind? CIA and the Trump Administration.

Roger Z. George, *Intelligence in the National Security Enterprise: An Introduction* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2020), 344 pp., US \$ 149.95 [Hardcover], US \$ 49.95 [Paperback], ISBN: 978-1-6261-6743-8.

This excellent textbook discusses the range of roles and functions of the intelligence community in contributing to U.S. foreign policy in what is termed the U.S. national security enterprise (NSE). Organized around key roles and functions, the chapters define intelligence and its various dimensions, the intelligence community's roles in the NSE's structure and decision-making processes, intelligence analytic methods (such as strategic intelligence, warning intelligence, etc.), how the intelligence community supports policy makers (such as via the President's Daily Brief), the mission of covert action, and the relationship between intelligence and civil liberties. The subject of the intelligence community's tracking of terrorism is covered in a section on al Qaida's 2001 attack, with the author's observation that the CIA was well aware of al Qaida's major plots at a strategic level, but that its "plans to go after [bin Laden – JS] were largely squelched by a Clinton administration worried about the uncertainty of the intelligence and possible blowback that such operations might have" (p. 164). As a textbook, the chapters include numerous side boxes, and figures, with a listing of suggested useful documents

and further readings. The author is a retired CIA analyst and professor at several universities.

*Table of Contents:* How to Use This Book; What Is Intelligence?; What Is the National Security Enterprise?; What Is the Intelligence Community?; From Intelligence Cycle to Policy Support; Strategic Intelligence; The Challenges of Warning; Intelligence Support as Policy Enabler; Covert Action as Policy Support; The Challenges of the Intelligence-Policy Relationship; Intelligence and American Democracy; Glossary: Intelligence Terms.

John A Gentry and Joseph S. Gordon, *Strategic Warning Intelligence: History, Challenges, and Prospects* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2019), 296 pp., US \$ 110.95 [Hardcover], US \$ 36.95 [Paperback], ISBN: 978-1-6261-6655-4.

As the authors explain, the book's objective is to discuss "the development of the strategic warning function, outline the capabilities of important warning analytic methods, explain why strategic warning analysis is so hard, discuss the special challenges warning has in dealing with senior decision-makers, assess the state of warning generally in the world, evaluate why the United States in recent years largely abandoned strategic warning in favor of a focus on current intelligence, and recommend warning-related structural and procedural improvements in the US intelligence community (IC)" (p. 1). The authors add that "'warning' refers to strategic warning, not 'tactical' warning, which refers generally to notifications of an immediately impending military threat" (p. 1). Regarding the role of strategic warning in countering terrorism, the authors note that with terrorist attacks presenting 'tactical' threats, not 'strategic' threats to a country's stability, nevertheless they are now being viewed by national leaders as important national security threats, resulting in the 'blurring' of boundaries between "strategic and tactical intelligence" (p. 187) and making it virtually impossible to use a standard I&W [Indications & Warning – JS] method to identify new (or 'emerging') terrorist groups or new operating areas or practices; traditional police methods evidently often work better" (p. 187). This has introduced tactical warning into intelligence analysis, with 'targeters' employing big data and link analysis techniques to attempt to "connect the dots" about potentially imminent terrorist attacks. This book's discussion of strategic warning issues, especially how these apply to countering terrorism, make it an important resource for understanding the role of the intelligence community and its analytic methods in effectively addressing the terrorism challenges facing governments. John Gentry, a former CIA analyst, is an Adjunct Professor in security studies at Georgetown University and Columbia University. Joseph Gordon is the Colin Powell Chair for Intelligence Analysis at National Intelligence University, in Washington, DC.

*Table of Contents:* Preface; Introduction; Concepts of Strategic Warning Intelligence; Four Classic Warning Cases; Types of Government Warning Institutions; The Evolution of U.S., British, Dutch, and NATO Warning Institutions; Warning Methodological Issues; The "Indications and Warning" Analytic Method; Other Warning Analytic Techniques; Cognitive, Psychological, and Character Issues; Producers of Warning Intelligence beyond Formal Intelligence Communities; Dealing with Senior Intelligence Consumers; Institutional Issues; The Future of Strategic Warning Intelligence.

Kjetil Anders Hatlebrekke, *The Problem of Secret Intelligence* (Edinburgh, Scotland, UK: Edinburgh University Press, 2021), 272 pp., US \$ 110.00 [Hardcover], US \$ [Paperback], ISBN: 978-1-4744-8183-0.

The author argues that "the essence of intelligence reflects the core principles of critical rationalism, since good intelligence makes uncertain estimates less certain" (p. 2). Good intelligence, the author adds, "challenges the belief that mysteries can be understood using classic inductive intelligence analysis". He accordingly contests that mysteries only "involve contingent relationships between a limited set of causes and effects." Mysteries should hence be understood as infinitely complex" (p. 6). One result of the faulty use of an inductive approach, the author argues, led to the 9/11 intelligence debacle, in which the CIA collection strategy had "targeted bin Laden and al Qaeda in Afghanistan, and consequently not the danger emerging on US soil" (p. 164) where the attacks took place. Although some of the author's writing is overly theoretical, and the deductive approach (the opposite of induction) is not discussed, this book is an interesting critique of how the inductive approach is employed by intelligence agencies in countering terrorism. The author is Associate Professor at the Norwegian Defence Intelligence School and has served as an intelligence officer in the Norwegian Armed Forces.

*Table of Contents:* Introduction; Part I: Critical Thinking and Intelligence; Cognition; Intelligence and Discourse of Failure; Part II: Complexity, Secrecy and Intelligence Tribal Language; Secrecy and Intelligence Tribal Language; Part III: The Case of 9/11: A Theoretical and Reflective Analysis; On Collection; On Analysis; On Dissemination; On Action and Decisions by the Intelligence Consumer; Conclusion.

Mark M. Lowenthal, *Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy* [Eighth Edition] (Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE/CQ Press, 2020), 616 pp., US \$ 85.00 [Paperback], ISBN: 978-1-5443-2506-4.

The role and function of intelligence is to support policy making. Therefore, this textbook's focus is, as the author explains, "on the relationship between intelligence, in all of its aspects, and policy making" in government (p. 2). The author adds that the objective of intelligence agencies is fourfold: "to avoid strategic surprise; to provide long-term expertise; to support the policy process; and to maintain the secrecy of information needs, and methods" (p. 2). The book's chapter 12 on "The Intelligence Agenda: Transnational Issues," discusses threat fields such as cyberspace, terrorism, WMD proliferation, narcotics, economic threats, demographic threats, and health and environmental threats. Regarding the terrorism threat, the author explains how intelligence analysts examine "chatter": the pattern of "communications and movements of known or suspected terrorists" that might indicate the potential for an attack (p. 359). He also discusses the use of various intelligence tools to track terrorists, such as human intelligence (HUMINT), signals intelligence (SIGINT), open-source intelligence (OSINT), measurement and signatures intelligence (MASINT), and geospatial intelligence (GEOSINT). Measuring effectiveness in countering terrorism is also covered, with the author observing that one of the limitations in measuring success is that "Unlike conventional wars, there are no battle fronts moving one way or another" and that "Nor is it clear that the absence of another attack entirely means success" because some groups, such as al Qaida, employ "long planning cycles" in their attack planning (p. 363). As a textbook, each chapter includes an overview, side boxes, figures, tables, and concludes with key terms, and suggestions for further reading. This textbook is an indispensable resource on the study of intelligence in all its dimensions. The author is a former high-level official in the CIA and a veteran expert on intelligence issues in the private sector and academia.

*Table of Contents:* Preface; Acronyms; What Is "Intelligence"?; The Development of U.S. Intelligence; The U.S. Intelligence Community; The Intelligence Process – A Macro Look: Who Does What for Whom?; Collection and the Collection Disciplines; Analysis; Counterterrorism; Covert Action; The Role of the Policy Maker; Oversight and Accountability; The Intelligence Agenda: Nation-States; The Intelligence Agenda: Transnational Issues; Ethical and Moral Issues in Intelligence; The Intelligence Reform; Foreign Intelligence Services; Appendix 1. Additional Bibliographic Citations and Websites; Appendix 2. Major Intelligence Reviews or Proposals.

Katherine Hibbs Pherson and Randolph H. Pherson, *Critical Thinking for Strategic Intelligence* [Third Edition] (Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE/CQ Press, 2021), 468 pp., US \$ 45.00 [Paperback], ISBN: 978-1-5443-7426-0.

The textbook is organized around twenty key questions in conducting intelligence-related research and analysis and presenting the findings to the various government "customers." For the counterterrorism analytic community, many of the intelligence analytic tools discussed in the volume are especially useful. These include a Quadrant Crunching Matrix on the 2008 Mumbai attack that outlines four possible outlines in terms of wreaking havoc, maximum chaos, making a statement, and deadly deception (p. 99), a political instability risk assessment model (p. 101), a coup vulnerability methodology (p. 103), and the case study on Iraq's aluminum tubes, which were suspected of being part of the country's WMD program (pp. 393-402). As a textbook, each chapter includes side bars, figures, tables, key takeaways, and questions that relate to one of the six case studies listed at the end of the volume. This textbook is an indispensable comprehensive resource for literally everything one needs to know about conducting intelligence research, analysis, and presentation on these issues. The husband-and-wife authors were high-level CIA managers in the analytic branch and currently run Pherson Associates, LLC/Globalytica, LLC, an educational firm on intelligence analytic studies.

*Table of Contents:* The Critical Thinker's Checklist; Foreword; Preface; Introduction to the Third Edition; Introduction; PART I: How Do I Get Started; Who Are Your Clients; What Are the Key Questions?; What Is the Broader Context for the Analysis?; How Should I Conceptualize My Product?; What Is My Analytic Approach?; Can Collaboration Contribute to a Better Answer?; PART II: Where Is the Information I Need?; How Do Models Help My Analysis?; What Types of Information Are Available?; Can I Trust the Sources?; How Should I Assess the Reliability of Internet Information?; PART III: What Is My Argument?; Are My Key Assumptions Well-Founded?; Can I Make My Case?; Did I Consider Alternative Hypotheses?; How Do I Deal With Politicization?; How Might I Be Spectacularly Wrong?; PART IV: How Do I Convey My Message Effectively?; Is My Argument Persuasive?; How Should I Portray Probability, Levels of Confidence, and Quantitative Data?; How Can Graphics Support My Analysis?; How Do I Present My Message in the Most Compelling Way?; How Do I Know When I Am Finished?; PART V: Case Studies; Case Study I: Uncharted Territory; Case Study II: Russian Disinformation; Case Study III: Blackout on the Eastern Seaboard!; Case Study IV: The End of the Era of Aircraft Carriers; Case Study V: Puzzling Food Poisoning in Germany; Case Study VI: The Case of Iraq's Aluminum Tubes; Glossary of Terms; List of Names.

Randolph H. Pherson and Richards J. Heuer Jr., *Structured Analytic Techniques for Intelligence Analysis* [Third Edition] (Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE/CQ Press, 2021), 384 pp., US \$ 85.00 [Paperback], ISBN: 978-1-5063-6893-3.

The spiral handbook covers sixty-six structured analytic techniques to conduct intelligence analysis. The handbook's eleven tabs separate the techniques into categories, such as the role of structured techniques, choosing the right technique, diagnostic techniques, foresight techniques, decision support techniques, and how structured analytic techniques are likely to be used in the year 2030. For each family of techniques, the authors provide an overarching description of that category, followed by a brief summary of each technique covered in the chapter. The analytic techniques include mind maps and concept maps, Venn analysis, network analysis, analysis of competing hypotheses, alternative futures analysis, multiple scenarios generation, SWOT analysis, critical path analysis, and decision trees. Many of these analytic techniques are used in counterterrorism campaigns to analyze how terrorist groups operate and plan attacks, making this handbook an indispensable resource for intelligence analysts, whether in government or academia. Randolph Pherson is co-owner of Pherson Associates, LLC/Globalytica, LLC. Richards J. Heuer Jr., who died in August 2018, was a retired high-level CIA analyst and developer of numerous intelligence analytic techniques.

*Table of Contents:* Foreword by John McLaughlin; Preface; Introduction and Overview; The Role of Structured Techniques; Choosing the Right Technique; Practitioner's Guide to Collaboration; Getting Organized; Exploration Techniques; Diagnostic Techniques; Reframing Techniques; Foresight Techniques; Decision Support Techniques; The Future of Structured Analytic Techniques.

Michael Warner, *The Rise and Fall of Intelligence: An International Security History* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2014), 304 pp., US \$ 89.95 [Hardcover], US \$ 29.95 [Paperback], ISBN: 978-1-6261-6046-0.

This is an interesting and detailed account of the history of intelligence from ancient times to the modern period. Regarding the use of intelligence in countering terrorism, the seventh chapter, on "The Shadow War," covers the period from the 1990s to around 2013. The mid-1990s, in particular, the author points out, represented a new phase with the intelligence agencies "turning scarce resources toward a resurgent terrorist threat" (p. 281), including the employment of "new digital means of collection" (p. 302), especially in cyberspace. At the time of the book's publication, the author was a historian for the U.S. Department of Defense and a former historian at the CIA and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

*Table of Contents:* Preface; Timeline; Introduction; From Ancient to Modern; A Revolutionary Age; As Good as It Gets; Cold War: Technology; Cold War: Ideology; The Liberal Triumph?; The Shadow War; Conclusion: Intelligence All around Us.

### **Counterterrorism – Al Qaida**

Peter De Werd, *US Intelligence and Al Qaeda: Analysis by Contrasting Narratives* (Edinburgh, Scotland, UK: Edinburgh University Press, 2020), 304 pp., US \$ 110.00 [Hardcover], ISBN: 978-1-4744-7806-9.

This book attempts to demonstrate “how theoretical components from critical discourse analysis and securitization theory substantiate a reflexivist methodology and method for analyzing complex intelligence problems: analysis by contrasting narratives (ACN)” (p. 1) The author adds that “Narratives associated with entities involved in complex intelligence are identified, their development over time is analysed, and the multi-consequentiality of discursive and non-discursive events within and beyond narratives is studied” (p. 1). This ACN approach, together with a narrative analysis framework (NAF) and a narrative tracing (NT) methodology, are used to focus “on multi-consequentiality of statements and actions” by al Qaida from 1994 to early 2001 as they are interpreted by the three narratives of al Qaida (macro level); institutional terrorism narrative, such as by intelligence agencies (macro); and by a critical terrorism narrative, such as by news correspondents (micro) (p. 46). The author hopes that the ACN framework, while ‘differing’ from the structured analytic techniques (SATs), which are commonly used in the intelligence community, will help to democratize intelligence analytic techniques by “encouraging wider reflexivism among professionals” (p. 210). Despite such over-use of Critical Terrorism Studies’ jargon throughout the book, some of the sections are interesting, such as the accounts of al Qaida’s narratives and activities during this period, two schematic overviews of text selection and analysis, and several figures of how the three different narratives affected ‘securitization efforts.’ The author concludes that “Reflexivist and critical approaches can provide interesting perspectives on the future of intelligence” (p. 215). The author is Assistant Professor in Intelligence and Security at the Netherlands Defence Academy.

*Table of Contents:* ACN: Theory, Methodology, Method, and Object of Research; Al Qaeda Narrative; US Institutional Terrorism Narrative on Bin Laden and Al Qaeda; Critical Terrorism Narrative; Conclusion.

Nahed Artoul Zehr, *The War against al-Qaeda: Religion, Policy, and Counter-narratives* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2017), 232 pp., US \$ 89.95 [Hardcover], US \$ 32.95 [Paperback], ISBN: 978-1-6261-6428-4.

This is an interesting and informed discussion of the need by the United States and its allies to complement the military campaign to counter Islamist groups, such as al Qaida, with an effective theology-based counter-narratives approach. A primarily military campaign, the author argues, whether in the form of counterinsurgency or counterterrorism, is limited in its effectiveness, as it has not “produced sustainable levels of progress or success in Iraq and Afghanistan” (p. 7). This needs to be complemented with a theology-focused counter-narratives approach that will be more effective at marginalizing al Qaida’s appeal by addressing the needs of the various Muslim communities around the world that the group’s religious narrative appeals to. To discuss these issues, significant al Qaida ideologues are highlighted, such as Muhammad abd-al-Salam Faraj, Abdullah Yusuf Azzam, and Usama bin Laden, as well as leading moderate Muslim authorities on countering al Qaida’s ideology. The author is executive director of the Faith and Culture Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

*Table of Contents:* Introduction: A Different Kind of War; Foundations: A Just War Analysis of the War against al-Qaeda; Traditions: The Moral Constraints of War in Islam; Narratives: Al-Qaeda’s Dual Nature; Tactics: Al-Suri and al-Qaeda’s Model of War; Counter-narratives: Moderate Muslim Voices and a Debate within the Tradition; Conclusion: Operationalizing Counter-narratives in the War against al-Qaeda.

### **India, Pakistan and Kashmir**

Myra Macdonald, *White as the Shroud: India, Pakistan and War on the Frontiers of Kashmir* (London, England, UK: Hurst & Company, 2020), 224 pp., US \$ 34.95 [Hardcover], ISBN: 978-1-7873-8398-2.

This is a fascinating, detailed and authoritative first-hand account by a veteran British journalist of the military conflict between India and Pakistan over the disputed Siachen Glacier region in northern Kashmir. With the

conflict erupting in April 1984 when Indian troops gained control of the Siachen Glacier, a cease-fire went into effect in 2003, with the two sides still remaining in a protracted stand-off. The author concludes that “In the short-run, perhaps the best that can be achieved are renegotiated ceasefires, with protocols to ensure these are respected. But, as recent history has demonstrated all understandings on ceasefires eventually break down, either because of distrust between national capitals, or because the terrain is ripe for miscalculation between armies pressed up against each other on the frontiers” (p. 216). The author, a former correspondent for Reuters, specializes in South Asian politics and security.

*Table of Contents:* Preface; Ladakh; The Nubra Valley; Siachen; the Jawan; Borders; The Border Wars; Pakistan; Drifting into War; Flying over Siachen; capturing a Post; Pakistan Counterattacks; Stalemate; The Kargil war; Defeat at Kargil; Last Visit to Siachen; Epilogue.

### ***The Middle East***

Asaad Alsaleh, *Historical Dictionary of the Syrian Civil War* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2021), 440 pp., US \$ 150.00 [Hardcover], ISBN: 978-1-5381-2077-4.

Following the editor’s detailed chronology of the events of the Syrian civil war from its outbreak in January 2011 to February 2021, a 29-page introduction provides an overview of this civil war, covering topics such as the legacy of Syria’s long-term leader Hafiz al-Assad, an assessment of his son, Bashar al-Assad’s rule, the origins of the civil war, the nature of the opposition groups (including the jihadi groups), and postwar Syria. The more than 300-page historical dictionary includes more than 200 cross-referenced entries, which are arranged alphabetically. An almost 60-page bibliography, which is arranged topically, provides a comprehensive listing of books and articles on Syria and the civil war. Assad Alsaleh, a Syrian American academic, is Professor of Middle East Studies at Indiana University in Bloomington.

*Table of Contents:* Editor’s Foreword; Reader’s Note; Acronyms and Abbreviations; Map; Chronology; Introduction; The Dictionary; Bibliography.

Aomar Boum and Mohamed Daadaoui, *Historical Dictionary of the Arab Uprisings* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2020), 464 pp., US \$ 95.00 [Hardcover], ISBN: 978-1-5381-1999-0.

Following a detailed chronology of the Arab Uprising’s origins in June 2010 until April 2019, a 17-page introduction provides an overview and evolution of the uprising, the involvement of the international community, the rise of “secular” Islamists, the spread of refugees, and an assessment of future trends. An almost 210-page historical dictionary includes more than 500 cross-referenced entries on the uprising’s terms, people and events. A 160-page bibliography, which is arranged topically, covers thematic and theoretical perspectives of the uprising and the literature on how the uprising played out in the Middle East and North Africa. Admar Boum is an Associate Professor and chair of political science and history at Oklahoma City University.

*Table of Contents:* Editor’s Foreword; Preface; Map; Acronyms and Abbreviations; Chronology; Introduction; The Dictionary; Glossary; Bibliography.

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