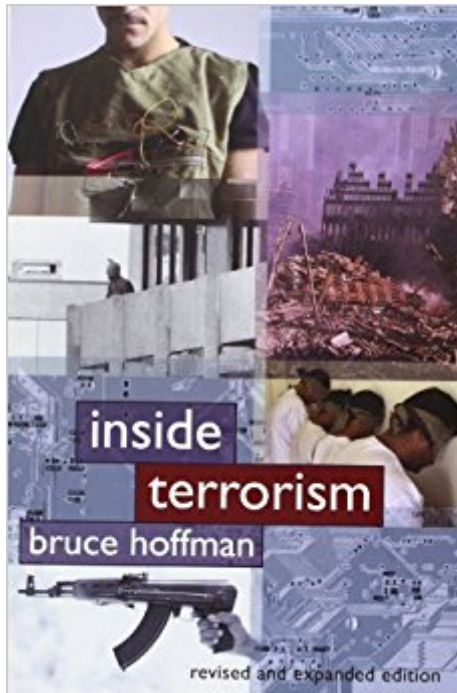




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# Inside Terrorism (Columbia Studies In Terrorism And Irregular Warfare)



## Synopsis

Bruce Hoffman's *Inside Terrorism* has remained a seminal work for understanding the historical evolution of terrorism and the terrorist mindset. In this revised edition of the classic text, Hoffman analyzes the new adversaries, motivations, and tactics of global terrorism that have emerged in recent years, focusing specifically on how al Qaeda has changed since 9/11; the reasons behind its resiliency, resonance, and longevity; and its successful use of the Internet and videotapes to build public support and gain new recruits. Hoffman broadens the discussion by evaluating the potential repercussions of the Iraqi insurgency, the use of suicide bombers, terrorist exploitation of new communications media, and the likelihood of a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear terrorist strike. Closer to home, Hoffman reconsiders the Timothy McVeigh case and the threats posed by American Christian white supremacists and abortion opponents as well as those posed by militant environmentalists and animal rights activists. He argues that the attacks on the World Trade Center fundamentally transformed the West's view of the terrorist threat. More relevant and necessary than ever, *Inside Terrorism* continues to be the definitive work on the history and future of global terrorism.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The word "terrorism" first became popular during the French Revolution, when the *régime de la terreur* was initially viewed as a positive political system that used fear to remind citizens of the

necessity of virtue. The use of violence to "educate" people about ideological issues has continued, but it has taken on decidedly negative connotations--and has become predominantly, though not exclusively, a tactic deployed by those who do not have the powers of state at their disposal. Bruce Hoffman, the director of the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence, has written a clear summary of some of the major historical trends in international terrorism. He makes careful distinctions between the motivations that drive political (or ethno-nationalist) terrorism and religious terrorism, and he also shows why the rise of religious terrorism, coupled with the increased availability of weapons of mass destruction, may foretell an era of even greater violence. In the past, Hoffman argues, the main goal of the terrorist was not to kill, but to attract media attention to his cause in the hope of initiating reform. "For the religious terrorist," however, "violence is first and foremost a sacramental act or divine duty executed in direct response to some theological demand or imperative ... religious terrorists see themselves not as components of a system worth preserving but as 'outsiders,' seeking fundamental changes in the existing order." Hoffman does not "choose sides" in this framework, pointing to the bombings of the World Trade Center and Oklahoma City and to the sarin nerve gas attacks in Tokyo in order to demonstrate that fundamentalists of any religious denomination are capable of extreme acts of terrorism. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

For its historical and political examination of terrorism, Inside Terrorism is a valuable work.... It falls into the category of 'must read' at least for anyone who wants to understand how we can respond to international acts of terror. (Raymond Bonner New York Times Book Review)A revised and expanded edition of the RAND scholar's classic work. (Atlantic Monthly)Hoffman's more rigorous appraisal, ought to be required reading as the rhetoric mounts this campaign season. (Aziz Huq American Prospect)A must read to all academics or practitioners who are dealing with the issue of terrorism. (mindef.gov.sg)Brilliant... The best one-volume introduction to the phenomenon. (The Washington Post)Any collection strong in terrorist literature and military history will find Hoffman's analysis of ongoing importance. (Bookwatch)One of the best primers on the subject. (Washingtonian)The most widely read book on terrorism&#x85; [Its] comprehensiveness will greatly benefit its readers. (Joshua Sinai The Washington Times)One of the Journal of Counterterrorism & Homeland Security International's 25 Top Books for Today's Bookshelf on Terrorism. (Journal of Counterterrorism and Homeland Security International)A classic introduction to the subject. (Speakeasy, The Wall Street Journal)

There are conclusions drawn in the chapters of this book that hint about the things to come. Almost ten years after the revision of this book there are events happening that were foreshadowed in the book. Specifically, the chapter on the use of media hints toward the end, that there may be advances in information sharing that we do not know about. Enter social media and the effect it is having on the surge of ISIS.

Very informative, Hoffman attributes contemporary perspective of terrorism to historical events that have influenced and shaped our understanding of the subject. The historical origins of some chapters may seem a bit off topic but don't be discouraged because Hoffman makes very interesting discoveries and provides brilliant easily understandable conclusions. It is a good read for anyone studying stability operations as it provides insight of the enemy perspective. Without doubt this book is the product of in-depth research in collaboration with some of the brightest minds in the field.

always pleased with this item and the speedy delivery. will definitely be ordering this item again in the near future.

The book will assist me in my studies as a student of terrorism, International Crime and Global Security. also useful for my research.

Superlative approach to a highly complex and diverse problem set. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this and came away with a much better understanding of the universe of problems and problem types that integrate into the terrorism issue.

Good

Very useful guide to terrorism. Important reading for anyone interested in Islamist terrorism.

Really helpful textbook for class would highly recommend.

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