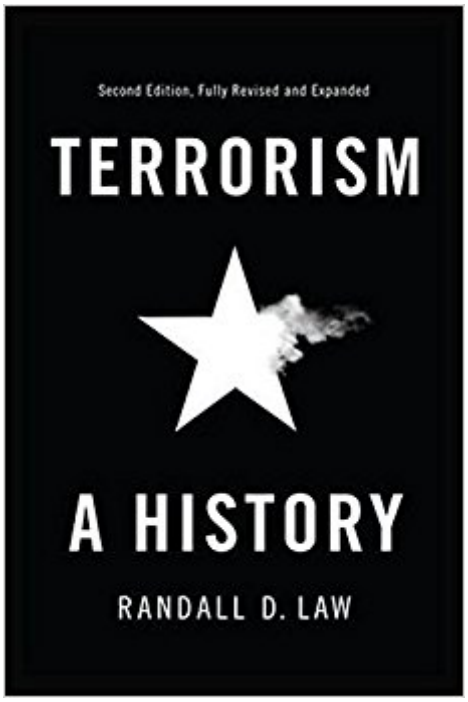
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Terrorism: A History (Themes In History)



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Synopsis

We live in an era dominated by terrorism but struggle to understand its meaning and the real nature of the threat. In this new edition of his widely acclaimed survey of the topic, Randall Law makes sense of the history of terrorism by examining it within its broad political, religious and social contexts and tracing its development from the ancient world to the 21st century. In Terrorism: A History, Law reveals how the very definition of the word has changed, how the tactics and strategies of terrorism have evolved, and how those who have used it adapted to revolutions in technology, communications, and political ideologies. Terrorism: A History extensively covers such topics as jihadist violence, state terror, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, Northern Ireland, anarcho-terrorism, and the Ku Klux Klan, plus lesser known movements in Uruguay and Algeria, as well as the pre-modern uses of terror in ancient Rome, medieval Europe, and the French Revolution. This thoroughly revised edition features up-to-date analysis of:Ã Â Al-QaedaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s affiliates and the Ã¢â ¬Å“franchisingÃ¢â ¬Â• of jihadismÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“Lone wolfÃ¢â ¬Â• violence in the United States and EuropeÃ Â Sri LankaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s victory over the Tamil Tigers Other features include updated and expanded bibliographies in each chapter, more scholarly citations, and a new conclusion, making Terrorism: A History the go-to book for those wishing to understand the real nature and importance of this ubiquitous phenomenon.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Exceptionally rich and sophisticated in analysis, Randal Law's much needed updated edition of Terrorism: A History is a welcome addition to the currently available literature and deserves to be read not only by students and academic specialists but also by security analysts, policy makers and general readers". Professor George Kassimeris, University of Wolverhampton
ÃƒÂ Ã Â¿Ã Â Terrorism continues to evolve, not erode. Professor Law, in this second edition, continues his examination of this evolution up through ISIS and other contemporary violent actors and provides additional insights to increase your understanding of terrorism today. His book remains the one to read for anyone seeking to understand terrorism, its history, and the thinking and motivation of those who practice it.ÃƒÂ Ã Â¿Ã Â Ed Rowe, Colonel, US Army (Ret.); Office of the Secretary of Defense Staff (Ret.)

Randall D. Law is Associate Professor of History at Birmingham-Southern College.

Ã Â The 2nd Edition of ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Terrorism: A History by Randall D. Law is an interesting look at history through the ages. The book illustrates that terrorism is as old as human civilization, but it has changed throughout the times.This book is a good overview of terrorism without going into any depth of any event. However, the author includes a Bibliography at the end of each chapter. These contain a ton of references for anyone who wants further information on specific events or times.The book, after all, is a history book that the author wrote for use in a college level class, and it reads as such. With that said, it is readable and interesting. And the author did a very good job of describing the history of terrorism and weaving everything together. The analysis helps the reader understand more than just a listing of events. The book is definitely good for the student who wants an academic look at the history of terrorism, but I think it will also help others in the security fields better understand the history to better predict and deal with future terrorism.At the end of the book, the author briefly, and I mean very briefly, touches on the future of terrorism, anti-terrorism today, and counterterrorism today. I would really like to see him write more on these areas. The deserve much more than the mention he provides here. But I do understand why he included what he did, because the focus of this text was history, not these three areas.If you are wanting a very good overlook of the history of terrorism, this book is a great place to start. For some, it will be enough. For others, who want more, this book provides the resources to expand your research into any incident or era you are interested in.

Great overview - sufficient detail with bibliographies for further reading in greater specific detail,

suitably explanatory and analytical as well as being descriptive.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. As a lover of history and a retired US Army veteran, I appreciated this condensed book of the history of terrorism. While US and European-centric, Randall Law has taken history's more influential terrorism events and given us an analysis. What was once tyrannicide under brutal monarchs or emperors has morphed into modern terrorism with a variety of players.The book starts out with a summary of the brutal deeds committed by the Assyrians and concludes with the contemporary tactics around the world of combating terrorism with innovative countermeasures. Law provides a chronological list of major terrorist events in the beginning of the book, and one sees that these brutal acts of fear and forced adherence to demands increased with the age of the Industrial Revolution, both in Europe and the US. Terrorism is committed and condoned by either individuals, governments or organizations. It evolved from anarchism to ethno-nationalism (and anti-colonialism) to white supremacism and more planned and deliberate tactics by today's standards.What I liked about Law's analysis is that this isn't just a book about terrorism, but how the act of terrorism fits in with the social and political events that brought on brutal actions. As Law notes, terrorism has evolved and seen many faces, from rebellious slave uprisings to labor-business disagreements, rich versus poor to battles between religions. The original intent of modern terrorism, that is, to strike fear in the victims to demanding changes in government policy has evolved into a more chaotic tactic to create turmoil without an end. Should governments appease or give in, or continue to explore more intuitive countermeasures? Law also makes a point that the US struggled with its fight against terrorism in the 1970s because for too long the US government had seen terrorism as a Communist conspiracy with an ideological stance rather than a strategic and tactical decision. His proof is the US policies during the Cold War.The chapters are relatively short. There is enough detail to give the reader the history and subsequent analysis. Each chapter ends with a list of websites to read for more information, or a bibliography of books that provide more detail. The language and narrative is academic; I can see this book being required reading for a sophomore-level political science course.For those interested in the evolution of terrorism, this is an excellent book with which to start.

Randall D. LawÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s second edition of Terrorism A History is not something that you pick up on a rainy Sunday and knock out before dinner. It is fairly dense, academic level discourse of the history of terrorism, which is not helped by the font that this book is written in, which tends to turn many sections of the book into a slog. With that said, the reader will learn a lot as Law does a

really good job of tracing the evolution of terrorism from ancient times to present. I would suggest that we learn that often times no matter what package one wraps terrorism in, the more it stays the same.I think if you are someone who studies terrorism all the time, then this book needs to be on your shelf in the New Year. While it is supposedly written for a broader public audience, I think that a lot of people would have trouble with this text despite Mr. LawÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s best efforts because of all the names and terms that the work taken in its entirety throws at you. At the end, I found myself not so much relishing in the connections between terrorism than and now, but rather that I had finished the book.

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