The Foundations of Modern Terrorism

Why is it that terrorism has become such a central factor in our lives, despite all the efforts to eradicate it? Ranging from early modern Europe to the contemporary Middle East, Martin A. Miller reveals the foundations of modern terrorism. He argues that the French Revolution was a watershed moment, as it was then that ordinary citizens first claimed the right to govern. The traditional notion of state legitimacy was forever altered, and terrorism became part of a violent contest over control of state power between officials in government and insurgents in society. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries terrorism evolved into a way of seeing the world and a way of life for both insurgents and state security forces, with the two sides drawn ever closer in their behaviour and tactics. This is a groundbreaking history of terrorism which, for the first time, integrates the violence of governments and insurgencies.

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The Foundations of Modern Terrorism
State, Society and the Dynamics of Political Violence

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In memory of Lily and Alfred Feiler
It is just that what is just must be followed. It is necessary that what is strongest must be followed. Justice without force is impotent. Force without justice is tyrannical…

So one must combine justice and force, and in so doing, making that which is just, strong, and what is strong, just. Justice is subject to dispute. Force is very recognizable and indisputable. Thus one cannot give force to justice because force contradicts justice, having said that it [justice] was unjust and that it was itself [force] just. And thus being unable to make that which is just, stronger, one has made what is strong, more just.

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