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978-0-521-87120-4 - Civilizing Security
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Civilizing Security

Security has become a defining feature of contemporary public discourse, permeating the so-called ‘war on terror’, problems of everyday crime and disorder, the reconstruction of ‘weak’ or ‘failed’ states and the dramatic renaissance of the private security industry. But what does it mean for individuals to be secure, and what is the relationship between security and the practices of the modern state? In this timely and important book, Ian Loader and Neil Walker outline and defend the view that security remains a valuable public good. They argue that the state is indispensable to the task of fostering and sustaining liveable political communities in the contemporary world and thus pivotal to the project of civilizing security. This is a major contribution by two leading scholars in the field and will be of interest to anyone wishing to deepen their understanding of one of the most significant and pressing issues of our times.

Ian Loader is Professor of Criminology and Director of the Centre for Criminology at the University of Oxford. He is the author of *Policing and the Condition of England* (with A. Mulcahy, 2003) and *Crime and Social Change in Middle England* (with E. Girling and R. Sparks, 2000) and an editor of the *British Journal of Criminology*. Ian is a leading authority on contemporary transformations in policing and security.

Neil Walker is Professor of European Law in the Department of Law at the European University Institute, Florence, and (for 2007) the Tercentenary Professor of Law at the University of Edinburgh. He has made well-known contributions to questions of transnational constitutional theory as well as to the study of policing and security. He has recently edited *Europe’s Area of Freedom, Security and Justice* (2004) and *Relocating Sovereignty* (2006).

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521691598

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First published 2007

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-87120-4 hardback
ISBN 978-0-521-69159-8 paperback

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Acknowledgements

We have been working together on this book, or at least on its themes, for almost a decade. During such a span of time one necessarily receives support, assistance and encouragement from a great many quarters, both individual and institutional, and we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our debts and thank those to whom they are owed. We wish to thank, first of all, our friends and colleagues at the three extremely collegial and stimulating institutions at which we have worked during the writing of this book: in Ian's case, the Department of Criminology at Keele University and the Centre for Criminology at the University of Oxford, and in Neil's, the Department of Law at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence. Ian would, in addition, like to thank the EUI for the award of a Jean Monnet Fellowship in 2004 and for the subsequent hospitality which allowed us to give the writing of this book something of a 'kick start'.

We would, beyond this, like to thank all the seminar and conference participants who have over this period commented on our work in progress during the various presentations we have singularly or jointly given, as well as those friends and colleagues who have been kind or interested enough to respond to draft papers and chapters, or who have engaged in discussion of the book's themes. At the risk of omitting someone with a legitimate claim to be included, and in no particular order of importance, such thanks are due to the following people: Andrew Ashworth, Richard Bellamy, Grainne de Burca, Damien Chalmers, Bill Dixon, Benoît Dupont, Andrew Goldsmith, Benjamin Gould, Carole Harlow, Jef Huysmans, Martin Innes, Vivienne Jabri, Les Johnston, Susanne Karstedt, Liora Lazarus, Hans Lindahl, Tim Newburn, Jim Sheptycki, Richard Sparks, Victor Tadros, Jim Tully, Jeremy Waldron, Rob Walker, Michael Williams, Jennifer Wood, Lucia Zedner and three anonymous Cambridge University Press reviewers. Didier Bigo and Clifford Shearing are owed particular thanks for pointing out why we were wrong in ways that helped sharpen our

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argument, while reminding us in the process of the virtues and possibility of civilized intellectual and political dialogue. Thanks also to John Dunn for issuing a challenge that we hope to have gone at least some distance towards meeting. It should be apparent that the usual disclaimer applies.

John Haslam and Carrie Cheek at Cambridge University Press have been a model of professionalism – and were rewarded by not having to wait as long as we usually detain our publishers. Finally, and once more, we have drawn inspiration from the love and support of, respectively, Penny, Eloïse and Imogen, and Gillian, Ross and Lewis, and from the recent and joyous arrival into the world of Iris and Emilia. It is to them that we dedicate this book.

The authors and publisher would like to thank the following publishers for permission to reproduce material for which they hold the copyright: Sage Publications Ltd for sections of chapter 1 that first appeared as ‘Policing as a Public Good: Reconstituting the Connections Between Policing and the State’, *Theoretical Criminology* 5/1 (2001), 9–35; Cambridge University Press for a sketch of the overall argument that first appeared as ‘Necessary Virtues: The Legitimate Place of the State in the Production of Security’, in J. Wood and B. Dupont (eds.) *Democracy, Society and the Governance of Security* (2006); and Hart Publishing Ltd for an initial version of chapter 9 which is to be published as ‘Locating the Public Interest in Transnational Policing’, in A. Goldsmith and J. Sheptycki (eds.), *Crafting Global Policing* (2007).