

CRIMINOLOGISTS ON TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY

This volume presents eighteen original essays addressing what is widely regarded as the most serious problem confronting America today and for years to come – terrorism – from the unique perspective of criminology. The chapters collected here address such issues as the prevention of terrorism, the applicability of community policing and routine activities models of crime to the problem of terrorism, how to balance liberty and security, and how to think about and manage the fear of terrorism, as well as the coordination of federal and local efforts to prevent and counter terrorism. *Criminologists on Terrorism and Homeland Security* will interest anyone concerned about violence prevention in general and terrorism in particular, as well as policing, prosecution, adjudication, sentencing, and restorative justice.

Brian Forst joined the American University faculty after twenty years in nonprofit research, including positions as research director at the Institute for Law and Social Research and the Police Foundation. He is the author, most recently, of *Terrorism, Crime, and Public Policy* (Cambridge, 2009); *After Terror* (with Akbar Ahmed, 2005); *Errors of Justice: Nature, Sources, and Remedies* (Cambridge, 2004); and *The Privatization of Policing: Two Views* (with Peter Manning, 1999). He is a member of the American University Senate and chairs the Department of Justice, Law, and Society's doctoral program. He is also a voting member of the Sentencing Commission for the District of Columbia.

Jack R. Greene is Professor and former Dean of the College of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University, where he led academic and research programs focused on matters of criminology and justice policy (1999–2008). He is one of the country's leading scholars in the field of policing. Greene has published five books, the two-volume *Encyclopedia of Police Science*, and more than 100 research articles, book chapters, research reports, and policy papers on matters of policing in the United States and internationally. Professor Greene has consulted for various agencies and organizations and is a Fellow of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

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The editors dedicate this book to the late Jean-Paul Brodeur, one of the contributors who made the book possible. He was an extraordinary scholar and friend, and a delight to work with: effective yet considerate, profound yet accessible, responsive and prompt yet thorough. He was an inspiring leader and a patient, reliable team player. A philosopher, J.P. had the rare capacity to make serious points with a light touch. His chapter is foundational, about how to reason in the face of complexity. He has contributed significantly to this work; he has contributed more fundamentally to our ability to think clearly.

Criminologists on Terrorism and Homeland Security

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Preface

DESCRIPTION, RATIONALE, AND SCOPE

This is a book of original essays addressing what is widely regarded as the most serious problem confronting America today and for years to come – terrorism – from a unique perspective: that of criminology. The literature on terrorism is framed typically from a geopolitical perspective and using ethnographic narratives, based on case studies that provide essential information about specific terrorist groups, their agendas, how they operate, and how they arise from and influence external political forces. Although scholarly and useful, these conventional approaches to thinking about terrorism overlook a well-developed body of knowledge on the nature and sources of aggression generally and crime in particular, and what can be done to prevent both. The criminological perspective thus provides a potentially useful complement to the standard literature on terrorism. Criminology has amassed a rich body of literature ranging from individual motivations toward crime and antisocial behavior, small-group dynamics in cultivating and reinforcing deviant subgroups, organized and networked crime syndicates and their use of technology to create and exploit criminal opportunities, and more broadly defined cultural orientations toward the social order. Criminology has also studied policies and programs to prevent and respond to crime, as well as ones aimed at mitigating the consequences of criminal behavior. This book explores the prospect of putting this alternative perspective to service to help understand terrorism and develop policies to prevent or mitigate its effects.

Terrorism is, to be sure, an extraordinary manifestation of aggression and crime. Still, it has more in common with conventional forms of crime than is widely acknowledged. Like crime generally, terrorism is produced predominantly by young, alienated males with little stake in legitimate society, operating typically in small groups. It is geopolitical, but it is also a crime in the jurisdictions in which it occurs. It is no coincidence that the burden of protecting the public against hostile aggressors has shifted from the Department of Defense and the military to the Department of Homeland Security and the police. In important ways all terrorism is local in terms of impact. The central organizing principle of the book follows this essential logic:

Effective programs have been developed to prevent acts of crime based on our understanding of its sources, and we have done little to ask the extent to which this body of knowledge is relevant to the problem of terrorism and, to the extent that it is not relevant, what is needed to fill the information gaps so that terrorism can be prevented and, when acts of terrorism do penetrate the shield of prevention, societies can respond to and recover from it more effectively.

This book aims to fill that void. Its chapters are organized in three parts. The first part focuses on the nature of terrorism and what it has in common with, and how it differs from, aggression generally and crime in particular. The second part addresses strategies and policies for intervening against terrorism, with a focus on means of preventing it by protecting targets and intervening against aspiring terrorists. The third part looks forward, asking what sort of data and thought are needed to advance our body of knowledge on the problem of terrorism.

HOW THIS BOOK ADVANCES THINKING ABOUT TERRORISM

Although this anthology takes a distinctly criminological perspective, it is nonetheless fairly broad and applied, with the intent of making the material accessible to students of criminology and criminal justice. It is directed at students and teachers, scholars and practitioners alike interested in such issues as the prevention of terrorism, the

PREFACE

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applicability of community policing and routine activities models of crime to the problem of terrorism, how to balance liberty and security, and how to think about and manage the fear of terrorism, as well as the coordination of federal and local efforts to prevent and counter terrorism.

It is a collection of readings by some of the world's most respected criminologists, designed for the classroom, for scholars, and for practitioners and policy makers. It can serve as a primary or complementary text for undergraduate and graduate courses in criminology and criminal justice policy and administration, and as an academic contribution to criminology and the already large and rapidly growing field of terrorism studies. It should also be of interest to researchers on violence prevention, policing, prosecution, adjudication, sentencing, and restorative justice.

The Editors