

Countering Terrorism in Britain and France

Though Britain and France have faced a similar threat from Islamist terrorism in the years following September 11, 2001, they have often responded in different ways to the challenges it posed. This groundbreaking work offers the first in-depth comparative analysis of counter-terrorist policies and operations in these two leading liberal democracies. Challenging the widely held view that the nature of a state's counter-terrorist policies depends on the threat it is facing, Foley suggests that such an argument fails to explain why France has mounted more invasive police and intelligence operations against Islamist terrorism than Britain and created a more draconian anti-terrorist legal regime. Drawing on institutional and constructivist theories, he develops a novel theoretical framework that puts counterterrorism in its organisational, institutional and broader societal context. With particular appeal to students and specialists of International Relations and Security Studies, this book will engage readers in the central debates surrounding anti-terrorist policy.

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Countering Terrorism in Britain and France

Institutions, Norms and the Shadow of the Past

Frank Foley



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Dedicated to my Mother and Father

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