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Anne R. Bradley, Christopher J. Coyne, Abigail R. Hall
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Peter Boettke
George Mason University

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF TERRORISM, COUNTERTERRORISM, AND THE WAR ON TERROR

Anne R. Bradley
The Fund for American Studies
Christopher J. Coyne
George Mason University
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Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
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103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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Christopher J. Coyne
George Mason University

Abigail R. Hall
University of Tampa

Author for correspondence: Christopher J. Coyne, ccoyne3@gmu.edu

Abstract: This Element explores the topics of terrorism, counterterrorism, and the US government's war on terror following the September 11, 2001 terror attacks. It draws on insights from Austrian and public choice economics. First, it discusses the foundations of the economics of terrorism, emphasizing that the behaviors of terrorists and counterterrorists are purposeful and goal-oriented. It then considers the economics of counterterrorism policies and the importance of institutional change for reducing demand for terrorism. Next, it focuses on three dilemmas facing liberal societies in relation to counterterrorism efforts. The Element then provides an assessment of the US government's war on terror. It discusses the origins of the war, whether it can be judged a success or a failure, and some of the main effects both abroad and within the United States. The Element concludes by putting forward several areas for future research.

Keywords: counterterrorism, democracy, economics, terrorism, September 11, war on terror, liberalism, institutions, public choice

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