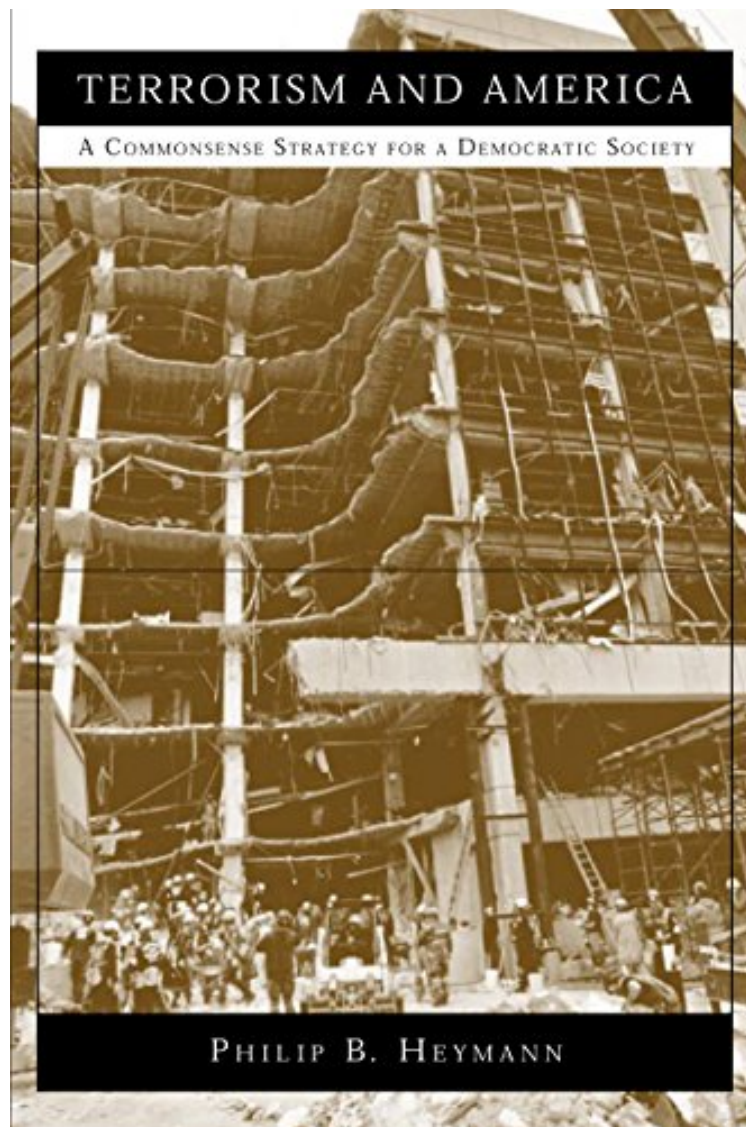


(Download) Terrorism and America: A Commonsense Strategy for a Democratic Society (Belfer Center Studies in International Security) (English Edition)

Terrorism and America: A Commonsense Strategy for a Democratic Society (Belfer Center Studies in International Security) (English Edition)

Von Philip B. Heymann

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Von Philip B. Heymann : Terrorism and America: A Commonsense Strategy for a Democratic Society (Belfer Center Studies in International Security) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Terrorism and America: A Commonsense Strategy for a Democratic Society

(Belfer Center Studies in International Security) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An excellent introductory text on this subject.Von Joseph J ConnellPhillip Heymann offers a clear-minded, if somewhat cursory, appraisal of the difficulties terrorist activity presents democratic and "open" societies. He manages in just a little over 150 pages to clearly identify the dangers over-reaction to either terrorist threats or actions can pose to a society, as well the risks posed when a terrorist incident involves more than one country, without burdening the reader with too much detail.This is not, however, an intellectual treatise or theoretical work. Heymann very clearly illustrates his points by examining specific incidents and their consequences involving not merely the US, but Italy, the UK, Germany, Israel, Columbia, and others. Perhaps most illustrative is his examination of the 1985 Achille Lauro hijacking, which drives home the complications arising when multiple governments and competing policies become involved, and Chapter 7 on the criminal justice system, which touches on everything from the difficulties of investigation to witness intimidation to the use (and possible abuse) of deadly force to the issue of civil rights.By the end, Heymann delivers on his promise of a "common sense" strategy for dealing with both domestic and international terrorism. Pragmatically admitting the danger of terrorism can never be completely eliminated, it can at least be minimized by a combination of steps, including more targeted intelligence gathering, greater sharing of information with our allies, resisting giving into terrorist demands, and better training of law enforcement in dealing with terrorism.The book has two small failings however. First, it provides only a cursory examination of what terrorism itself involves. While he devotes an entire chapter to the phenomenon of political violence, Heymann gives only passing mention to the motives and actions that could be involved and almost no examination of the differences between them. This leaves the reader with little appreciation of the differences, both in motive and method, between the decades of bombings committed by Basque Separatists in Spain and the more sinister activities of the Aum Shinrikyo cult between 1994 and 1995. An in-depth analysis would have actually detracted from Heymann's intent, but a few pages on these distinctions wouldn't have hurt the text.Secondly, he concentrates almost exclusively on conventional forms of terrorism. He mentions the threats of nuclear, chemical, and biological (NBC) terrorism, but does so in context of conflicts between states, stating the prospect of NBC terrorism is "unlikely". While this is certainly true now, this may well change in coming years. And the specter of an incident like that of the Tokyo subway gassing done by Aum Shinrikyo in 1995 can significantly change a government's options in terms of response. This is actually a minor point given the number of excellent books on the subject already out there, but even a short examination of the dangers NBC presents would have helped here.In summary, *Terrorism and America* makes an excellent starting point for readers interested in either terrorism or government's response against it. It should not be mistaken for any ground-breaking analysis on the subjects or a grand strategy for making society impervious to terrorism; the former would take a book easily three times its size, and the latter is quite simply impossible. This is as clear-headed and pragmatic a work on the subject you're likely to find. I highly recommend it.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. 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Kurzbeschreibung The bombings of the World Trade Center and the Oklahoma City federal building have shown that terrorist attacks can happen anywhere in the United States. Around the globe, massacres, hijackings, and bombings of airliners are frequent reminders of the threat of terrorism. The use of poison gas in the Tokyo subway has raised the specter of even more horrible forms of terror -- including the use of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. In this book, Philip Heymann argues that the United States and other democracies can fight terrorism while preserving liberty and maintaining a healthy, unified society. Drawing on his experience in the US Departments of State and Justice, he shows how domestic and foreign intelligence-gathering can thwart terrorism, how the United States must cooperate and share information with its allies, and how terrorism can be prevented in many cases. Terrorism will never disappear completely, but the policies Heymann offers can limit the harm to Americans and protect the integrity of US governmental processes.