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Terrorism: A Guide to Resources

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Karen Okamoto and Marta Bladek

Abstract

Prior to 9/11, terrorism was subject to political, scholarly, and media debates. A large body of literature on the topic reflected researchers’ long-standing interest in the topic. In the near decade since 9/11, terrorism and its threat have only gained urgency. This paper aims to provide a selected bibliography of resources, in print and electronic format, that focus on terrorism. Public and academic libraries have been providing access to terrorism-related resources, but no thematic bibliography has been published in professional journals since 2001. This guide aims to aid librarians in making decisions about developing and maintaining collections on the topic.

Terrorism research and politics changed irrevocably after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The links between religion and terrorism and the rise of transnational terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaeda became a significant focus of terrorism research and counter-terrorism efforts. The political landscape in the USA, and arguably the world, also changed after 9/11 with the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security, the introduction of the Patriot Act, and the subsequent global war on terror waged by the Bush administration. These shifts in research and politics precipitated by the 9/11 attacks raised further questions around how terrorism is defined and addressed.

Although instances of terrorist tactics can be traced back to antiquity, terrorism had not been employed as a systematic political strategy until the nineteenth century (Laqueur, 2001), and the term itself was not used until later. The term was first introduced in the 1790s and referred to the violent period that followed the French Revolution (Jenkins, 2003; Laqueur, 2001). Since then, terrorism has lost its original meaning, “reign of terror”, and now refers to acts of violence committed against civilians and aimed at instilling fear in a target population (Jenkins, 2003).

Yet, there is no consensus on the precise meaning of terrorism, and the feasibility of one comprehensive definition remains a contested issue (Laqueur, 2001; Jenkins, 2003; Lutz and Lutz, 2005; Schmid, 2004). Terrorism’s ever changing form, its political nature, as well as its varied conceptions across a variety of contexts (court of law, national and international politics, mass media, and scholarly debates) are some of the reasons why no single definition is able to capture terrorism’s complexity. It has been noted, for example, that even within the US government agencies there are four distinct definitions of terrorism in use (Schmid, 2004).

Despite the lack of agreement on an all-inclusive definition of terrorism, researchers have attempted to identify its key characteristics (Lutz and Lutz, 2005; Schmid, 2004). Based on lists of terrorism’s basic elements, it can be understood as a deliberate and demonstrative use of violence against humans (civilians, non-combatants, and innocents) that is politically motivated. Terrorism’s reliance on actual violence or its credible threat seeks to produce fear in a target population (often described as “audience”) well beyond those who would be immediately affected by a given terrorist act. Although attacks are often carried out by individuals, terrorism usually involves sub-national or non-state groups that may form a broader, not necessarily centralized, movement. As a form of political violence, terrorism aims to disturb an existing order of power.
Acknowledging that defining terrorism continues to be a highly contested issue, Walter Laqueur, the former Chairman of the International Research Council at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, points out that “to argue that terrorism cannot be studied until such a definition exists is manifestly absurd” (Laqueur, 2001, p. 5). Indeed, the scholarly literature on terrorism had already been extensive before 9/11. In the near decade since the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks, the study of terrorism has only gained in importance. The growing interest in terrorism has been reflected and supported by the ever-expanding number of information resources dedicated to the topic. The following bibliography aims to assist students, faculty, and the general public in navigating the vast array of terrorism-related information resources. Focusing on research conducted and published since 2001, it is also intended as a guide for public and academic librarians who work to develop, maintain, or evaluate a collection on the topic.

**Print and electronic reference sources**

A helpful starting point for research on the 9/11 terrorist attacks, this title includes an annotated bibliography, a collection of primary documents such as letters, reports and testimonies, and a chronology of events related to 9/11 from 1978 to 2006.

Each volume is given over to one aspect of terrorism: recruitment, training, and root causes.

The articles in this multivolume set discuss topics such as the definition of international terrorism and counter-terrorism operations. Volume 1 covers the history and development of terrorism, volume 2 discusses terrorism in various countries and Volume 3 contains documents and studies on terrorism.

This unique title contains laws, US government reports, UN resolutions and conventions, Congressional hearing statements as well as non-governmental documents such as the Al Qaeda Training Manual. The first volume covers the history of international terrorism with the most recent volume (#95) covering documents on extraordinary rendition.

**Book-length sources**

**General overviews of terrorism**

A thematic analysis of how terrorist campaigns end, the book focuses on major cases from the late twentieth century and first decade of the twenty-first, including Russia and Chechnya, the UK and the IRA, Turkey and the PKK among others. Each chapter discusses one of the six demise paradigms the author has identified:
1 decapitation;
2 negotiations;
3 success;
4 failure;
5 repression; and
6 reorientation. Understanding these patterns, the author argues, is critical to developing effective anti-terrorist strategies.

Hamm, M.S. (2007), Terrorism as Crime: From Oklahoma City to Al-Qaeda and Beyond, New York University Press, New York, NY
Hamm applies two criminology approaches – “routine activity perspective” and “social learning theory” – to the study of terrorism.

An introductory text that focuses on terrorism in the post-Second World War period. Each of its three main sections addresses a different aspect of the phenomenon. Part I defines terrorism, outlines its historical development, and examines its causes. Part II explores various forms of terrorism, from state terror to global terrorism. Part III is an examination of the terrorist trade (terrorist groups’ use of information technology and media, as well as common terrorist tactics), counterterrorism and related security measures. It concludes with a critical assessment of contemporary trends and possible future developments.

This concise and readable book sets out to correct and refine popular understandings of terrorism and the threat it poses. The book’s organization serves that end. Each of the chapters starts by summarizing the prevalent misconceptions and moves on to dispel them. Each chapter discusses a different aspect of terrorism: theoretical analysis of the phenomenon, a historical overview, discussion of prevalent characteristics. A section of the book is dedicated to Al-Qaeda, terrorist threat, and responses to terrorism. The last chapter discusses US strategic approach. The author argues that “new” terrorism has a long history, and is a culmination of trends. Global reach of terrorism isn’t anything new either.

Smith, P.J. (2008), The Terrorism Ahead: Confronting Transnational Violence in the Twenty-First Century, M.E. Sharpe, Armonk, NY
Smith defines terrorism and covers a breadth of topics such as global politics, information technology, religion, suicide bombers and funding.

History of terrorism

The author presents the cultural history of terrorism in the modern era on by critically examining terrorists’ lives, careers, and actions, rather than the ideologies that inspire them. Chapters are arranged chronologically. Each one focuses on a different group or movement, starting with the Irish Fenians and culminating in Al Qaeda.

Carr covers the history of international terrorism through the lens of military history. His work attempts to move away from political science and sociological analyses of terrorism.

Chaliand, G. & Blin, A. (Eds) (2007), The History of Terrorism: From Antiquity to Al Qaeda, University of California Press, Berkeley, CA
The 17 essays in this anthology cover terrorism from prehistoric times to 9/11 as well as America’s anti-terrorism activities. They also outline a working definition of terrorism and cover terrorism in different regions of the world including Southeast Asia and Russia.
The book was originally published in 1977 and reissued with a new introduction in August of 2001. The first chapter briefly outlines the origins of terrorism, but the remaining sections are arranged topically rather than chronologically. They focus on terrorism’s doctrine, sociology, interpretations, and late twentieth-century examples. The book also discusses the conditions under which terrorism was likely to take place and the circumstances that made terrorist actions either a success or failure. In the conclusion, the author refutes common misconceptions about terrorism.

The authors of this title assert that terrorism is not a recent phenomenon and instead claim that it has existed for 2000 years. They cover terrorism and the ancient world and discuss the classification and causes of terrorism.

Root causes of terrorism

A compilation of Krueger’s lectures at the London School of Economics, this book covers who becomes a terrorist and the economic and political contexts from which terrorists arise.

Post focuses on political terrorism and social psychology, asserting that there are different forms of terrorism and terrorist psychologies. He examines a cross-section of terrorist groups such as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Smelser considers “insurgent and international forms” of terrorism along with the ideologies that promote terrorism, recruitment strategies and the motivations of individual terrorists.

Economic aspects of terrorism

A total of 17 articles by European and North American economists cover topics such as financial markets, the impact of global terrorism on the economy, and how economics can contribute to studies of terrorism.

A wide range of topics are covered by this title including arms and terrorism, the internet, how terrorism is financed, and the use of sanctions to prevent terrorism.

Giraldo and Trinkunas compile essays that cover the financing of different terrorist organizations in various parts of the world including Europe, East Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia, and discuss groups such as Al Qaeda and Hezbollah. Chapters on the USA consider the 9/11 Commission Report along with international responses to terrorism financing.

Napoleoni examines the history of terrorism financing from the Cold War to contemporary terrorist groups and organizations.

**Terrorism and the law**

Centre of Excellence – Defence against Terrorism, Ankara, Turkey (Ed.) (2008), Legal Aspects of Combating Terrorism, IOS Press, Fairfax, VA
This volume consists of papers from The Advanced Training Course (ATC) entitled “Legal Aspects of Combating Terrorism”, held in February 2008 in Sarajevo. These papers provide a useful overview and international perspective on topics such as the United Nations, human rights, terrorist financing, cyberterrorism and EU counterterrorism efforts.

Eckert, J.M. (Ed.) (2008), The Social Life of Anti-Terrorism Laws: The War on Terror and the Classifications of the “Dangerous Other”, Transcript Verlag, Bielefeld
This collection of seven essays addresses how citizenship is conceptualized as a result of the War on Terror, particularly in relation to issues of access to political rights. It examines how the War on Terror has transformed national or regional approaches to security, and shaped the construction of the “dangerous other”. The essays in this volume cover the Sahel Region in Africa, Morocco, France, Germany, the USA and the UK.

The War on Terrorism has revived questions and debates around the balance of powers between the federal government and state governments. The eight contributions in this volume consider the question of constitutional limits on federal antiterrorism efforts and on local authorities who are against these interventions. This volume covers issues such as the New Jersey jail case, the Patriot Act, and Portland’s withdrawal from its Joint Terrorism Task Force.

**Terrorism and the media**

Jenkins, P. (2003), Images of Terror: What We Can and Can’t Know about Terrorism, Aldine de Gruyter, New York, NY
The author argues that terrorism is a socially constructed phenomenon whose complexity is rarely acknowledged. He suggests that standard accounts of terrorism are reductive and biased. To illustrate his point, he offers an alternative interpretation of US domestic terrorism since 1940, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, World Trade Center attack, and 9/11.

Moeller, S. (2009), Packaging Terrorism: Co-opting the News for Politics and Profit, Wiley-Blackwell, Malden, MA
The book exposes the influential role Western media have played in shaping the public perception and understanding of terrorism since 9/11. The author analyzes media portrayals of a number of terrorist incidents from across the world and argues that the media follow, rather than challenge or question, the official government line on terrorism. This collusion does not encourage nor allow a public debate to frame the phenomenon in different terms.

Written in a very accessible style and reflective of the author’s background in political and law communications, the book focuses on the communicative and rhetorical aspects of terrorism. It presents terrorism as a communication process between terrorists and their target audiences. In addition, the book
explores the symbolism terrorism employs, the public rhetoric about terrorism, as well as portrayal of terrorism in mass media.

**Religion, philosophy, and ethics of terrorism**

This collection of essays sets out to examine the complex relationship between religion, philosophy, and violence. Individual chapters explore how a religion or philosophy (Aristotelian and Platonic philosophy, Buddhism, Zen, and Confucianism are among those discussed) can deepen our understanding of contemporary terrorism.

The book focuses on the ethical dilemmas raised by terrorist acts and counterterrorism efforts. The author shows that a moral framework is necessary to guide politicians’ and lawmakers’ decisions about fighting the war on terror. Building on the just war theory and contemporary international law, the author argues that terrorism must be countered in ethically responsible ways.

Borradori, G. (Ed.) (2003), Philosophy in a Time of Terror: Dialogues with Jurgen Habermas and Jacques Derrida, Chicago University Press, Chicago, IL
Shortly after the attacks of 9/11, the author conducted separate interviews with Jurgen Habermas and Jacques Derrida, two influential thinkers representing the opposing ends of contemporary philosophy. The book includes both conversations as well as Borradori’s own essay in which she summarizes and elaborates on the two philosophers’ ideas about the causes and consequences of 9/11.

The author seeks to define terrorism by contrasting it with other forms of political violence, secession in particular. As he explores terrorism’s ethical aspects, he identifies punishment, retribution, and vengeance as the motives that underlie terrorist acts. Under specific criteria, he argues terrorism may be morally justifiable.

Held, V. (2008), How Terrorism Is Wrong: Morality and Political Violence, Oxford University Press, New York, NY
This collection of thematic essays, some previously published, examines the morality of political violence, with the focus on terrorism. Showing that war and other kinds of violence are often believed to be justifiable whereas terrorist acts are always seen as morally condemnable, the collection complicates the moral assessment of terrorism as well as other forms of politically motivated violence.

**Counter-terrorism**

Abrams, N. (2003), Anti-terrorism and Criminal Enforcement, Thomson/West, St Paul, MN
Cites and explains statutes and cases, and discusses criminal or law enforcement approaches to terrorism in contrast with a war, military, and intelligence approach.

The authors cover Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan and discuss the problems that have set back an international effort to respond to terrorism. They also outline what the international community ought to do to counter terrorism.
Davis, L.M., Mariano, L.T., Pace, J.E. et al. (2006), Combating Terrorism: How Prepared Are State and Local Response Organizations? Rand Corporation, Santa Monica, CA
A summary of a national survey conducted in 2003 on America’s preparedness for terrorism, this report covers intelligence information, how organizations have improved their preparedness, incidents that organizations need to be prepared for, how state and local organizations participate differently in federal programs, and lastly, relations between response organizations and private industry. This report importantly outlines strengths and areas for improvement in organizational responsiveness.

De Koster, P. (2005), Terrorism: Special Investigation Techniques, Council of Europe, Strasbourg
De Koster surveyed 35 Council of Europe member states and two observer states on their special investigation practices. He includes a copy of his questionnaire and notes similar investigation techniques between states.

Written for law enforcement and public safety personnel for training purposes, this title covers attack scenarios, response, rescue and preparation strategies and more.

Musch, D.J. (Comp.) (2004), International Terrorism Agreements: Documents and Commentary, Oceana Publications, Dobbs Ferry, NY
This title includes two draft UN conventions, 12 international and seven regional agreements, and provides commentary and background information for each document. It also includes a chronology of key terrorist incidents from 1961 to 2003.

This electronic book covers how to identify terrorists and terrorist groups and cells, along with terrorist activities. Intended as a training manual, this title also includes chapters on how to predict an attack and contemporary forms of terrorism including al-Qaeda and the insurgency in Iraq. It furthermore lists international terrorist groups and different types of explosives.

The counterterrorism policies of six Western countries – Britain, Germany, Norway, Canada, the USA and Israel – are examined in depth by this title. The book closes with a chapter on Al-Qaida and a chapter on counterterrorism policy in the West from the 1960s to the post-9/11 context.

State terrorism

Menjivar, C. and Rodriguez, N. (Eds) (2005), When States Kill: Latin America, the US, and Technologies of Terror, University of Texas Press, Austin, TX
Editors Menjivar and Rodriguez explain that state terrorism in Latin America is not rooted in the history of colonialism, but is instead the product of US interests and interventions in specific Latin American countries. The Latin American countries covered in this collection of essays include Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay.

Death Squad presents ethnographic case studies that examine the anthropology of state terror and its impact on local communities, particularly on terror victims and survivors. Sluka includes an introductory chapter on state terror and discusses torture and anthropological approaches to studies of state terror.
Wright, T.C. (2007), State Terrorism in Latin America: Chile, Argentina, and International Human Rights, Rowman & Littlefield, Lanham, MD
Concentrating on the human rights crisis in Chile and Argentina during the 1970s and 1980s, Wright examines the relationship between state terrorism and international human rights organizing in both countries. Wright also considers the legacy and impact of the crisis on Latin America today.

The aftermath of 9/11

9/11 terrorist attacks

A collection of essays grappling with the question of balancing national security interests with democratic rights and freedoms.


National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States (2003), The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States, National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States, Washington, DC. This final report, written by the ten appointed commissioners of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks, provides background information on 9/11 along with details of the response to the attacks. It also includes a history of Al Qaeda and provides recommendations for preparing for future attacks.


Al Qaeda


A compilation of responses by panelists at a 2004 conference on Al Qaeda covering its membership, history, media strategy, and relationship to Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the USA.

A collection of texts and speeches by Al Qaeda leaders, including Bin Laden, with introductions to each work and critical commentaries.

Written by a Western journalist, this title documents the author’s encounter with Al Qaeda in the 1980s and covers Pakistan’s role in hiding bin Laden and the problems associated with US foreign policy.

**The War on Terror**

Miller, M.J. and Stefanova, B. (Eds) (2007), The War on Terror in Comparative Perspective: US Security and Foreign Policy after 9/11, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, NY. This collection of essays discusses the impact of the War on Terror on different regions of the world and examines America’s relations with other states. US foreign policy is also discussed, covering the post 9/11 context, globalization and radical Islam.

Sands, P. (2008), Torture Team: Rumsfeld’s Memo and the Betrayal of American Values, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, NY. Sands links the abuses committed in Abu Ghraib, Afghanistan and Guantanamo to a memo signed by Donald Rumsfeld in 2002. The memo, Sands writes, authorized interrogation techniques that violated the Geneva Conventions. Investigating the inner workings of the Bush Administration, Sands interviews key figures, such as lawyers, who were involved in authorizing the use torture as part of the War on Terror. The book includes a detailed chronology of events from November 2001 to February 2008 which lists media coverage of the abuses and the administrative actions taken to authorize torture.

Sheehan, I.S. (2007), When Terrorism and Counterterrorism Clash: The War on Terror and the Transformation of Terrorist Activity, Cambria Press, Youngstown, NY. Sheehan provides background information on concepts and theories of terrorism and counterterrorism, and investigates whether preemptive military approaches such as the War on Terror have increased global terrorism.

Silkenat, J.R. and Shulman, M.R. (Eds) (2007), The Imperial Presidency and the Consequences of 9/11: Lawyers React to the Global War on Terrorism, Praeger Security International, Westport, CT. Essays in this collection cover the legality of the invasion of Iraq and the state of individual rights after the 9/11 attacks. The book also contains letters from the Association of the Bar of the City of New York addressed to figures such as President Bush.

**Abu Ghraib**

Benvenisti, M. (2004), Abu Ghraib: The Politics of Torture, North Atlantic Books, Berkeley, CA. Journalists, novelists, and academics contributed to this collection of essays which examine the torture of prisoners at Abu Ghraib. Some focus on the impact of the torture images, others discuss the Bush administration’s reaction to and role in the abuse.

Greenberg, K.J. and Dratel, J.L. (Eds) (2005), The Torture Papers: The Road to Abu Ghraib, Cambridge University Press, New York, NY. Greenberg and Dratel include the full text of legal memoranda used by the Bush administration to eliminate rules prohibiting torture, leading to the abuses at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo. Revealing memos and documents written by figures such as former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and former Secretary of State Colin Powell are included in this impressive collection of documents.

Mes’trovic’, S.G. (2007), The Trials of Abu Ghraib: An Expert Witness Account of Shame and Honor, Paradigm Publishers, Boulder, CO. As a member of the defense team for soldiers involved in the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib, Mes’trovic’ discusses the environment that led to the torture. He writes that low-ranking soldiers were held responsible for the abuse of prisoners while US government policies, which created the horrific and
chaotic environment at Abu Ghraib and led to prisoner abuse, were largely ignored during the trials of these solders.

**Guantanamo**


Kurnaz was arrested in 2001 without reason during a trip to Pakistan. Sold by the Pakistani police to US forces, Kurnaz was taken to Afghanistan for two months where he was mistreated and later transferred to Guantanamo. Kurnaz describes the abuse he endured at Guantanamo and writes about his final release in 2006 in which he was declared innocent.


Margulies examines Bush’s detention policy, created in 2002, which led to the indefinite detention and solitary confinement of prisoners at Guantanamo. Many detainees were eventually released or not charged for actions against the USA. Margulies, a lawyer who represented a Guantanamo detainee in the Supreme Court case Rasul v. Bush, provides accounts from Guantanamo personnel and the prisoners.


This brief book covers the establishment of the Guantanamo detention center and outlines the Bush administration’s illegal treatment of detainees. Stories of detainee abuse are also included.

**USA PATRIOT Act**

Abele, R.P. (2005), A User’s Guide to the USA PATRIOT Act and Beyond, University Press of America, Lanham, MD.

Six weeks after 9/11, Congress passed the controversial USA PATRIOT Act. In this accessible book, Abele considers the impact of the Act on civil liberties along with the then (2005) proposed and more intrusive PATRIOT ACT II.


This Congressional Research Service report, written for members of Congress, explains the meaning of various sections of the act including sections dealing with electronic surveillance, communication records, money laundering and border protection.


Etzioni calls for a “third way” in approaching the PATRIOT Act and suggests that the PATRIOT Act not be abandoned, but instead revised to balance national security interests and civil liberties. Etzioni also discusses security measures passed after 9/11 and offers ideas for alternative security measures.

**Periodicals**


Accessible through the United States Central Command website, the Coalition Bulletin includes articles written by volunteers from countries representing the Public Awareness Working Group and by writers from Coalition countries. Topics include stories of Coalition activities against the global war on terrorism along with the actions of the International Security Assistance Force.
A quarterly newsletter of the International Association for Counterterrorism and Security Professionals (IACSP), an association that focuses on all dimensions of counterterrorism.

Formerly entitled Patterns of Global Terrorism (1995-2003), this annual report is prepared by the US Secretary of State for Congress. It summarizes terrorist activities and threats in various countries as well as counter-terrorism efforts.

A monthly publication covering global threats, response strategies, technology, incident briefs and more.

A key publication of the International Association for Counterterrorism and Security Professionals (IACSP), this journal reports on terrorism and counterterrorism activities around the world.

Terrorism and Political Violence, available at http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/09546553.asp
The leading journal in the field is interdisciplinary and covers topics such as the meaning of terrorist activity, violence by groups and states and protest movements.

Databases
The following databases provide access to terrorism-related encyclopedias.

Gale Virtual Reference Library, Gale, Farmington Hills, MI
Includes full-text articles from electronic reference sources such as Patterns of Global Terrorism (2005), Terrorism: Essential Primary Sources (2004), Talking Terrorism: A Dictionary of the Loaded Language of Political Violence (2003), as well as Cyber Warfare and Cyber Terrorism (2008).

SAGE Reference Online, SAGE Publications, Thousand Oaks, CA
Titles such as Encyclopedia of Terrorism (2002) and Encyclopedia of United States National Security (2005) are included in this database.

International Security and Counter Terrorism Reference Center, EBSCO Information Services, Birmingham, AL
Hundreds of full-text articles and thousands of reports, summaries, books, blogs and more are included in this extremely useful database for terrorism researchers. The following databases provide the most comprehensive coverage of journal articles, reports, books, and web resources related to terrorism.

Criminal Justice Abstracts, Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, CA (available through ProQuest and CSA Ilumina)
Providing extensive coverage of scholarly articles and books in the field of criminal justice, CJA includes articles dating back to 1968 and consistently provides high-quality abstracts.

Criminal Justice Periodicals Index, ProQuest, Ann Arbor, MI
CJPI covers scholarly sources, popular magazines and trade publications such as the Criminal Law Reporter. It is updated frequently and even includes some articles published within the current month.

Jane’s Terrorism and Insurgency Centre, IHS Jane’s, Bracknell
A database, archive, and news source in one, JTIC features profiles of specific terrorist groups, country statistics, maps of terrorist activities, and daily reports that allow for monitoring and assessing terrorist threats. In addition, its featured content comprises expert analyses, overviews of specific case studies, and country briefs.

**Prager Security International**, ABC-Clio, Santa Barbara, CA
The searchable and browsable database provides brings together terrorism-related resources published and produced by PSI: encyclopedias and other reference sources, books (individual chapters can be accessed), commentaries and featured content (both commissioned), chronologies of specific terrorist acts, and primary documents. In addition, it also provides extensive in-depth bibliographies organized by geographical area and topic, as well as access to CIA World Fact Book.

**Web resources**

The following is just brief list of websites that provide terrorism-related information. For a more comprehensive overview of web resources about terrorism, see Kay Collins’s guide to locating online information on terrorism (Collins, 2008).

**American Civil Liberties Union** (ACLU), available at [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)
The ACLU’s human rights program monitors the US government’s compliance with universal human rights principles and with the rights incorporated in the US Constitution. The ACLU concentrates on issues such as national security, racial justice, and immigrants’ rights.

**Federal Bureau of Investigation, Reports and Publications**, available at [www.fbi.gov/publications.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/publications.htm)
Includes reports such as “The FBI’s Counterterrorism Program Since September 2001” and “Terrorism 2002-2005”.

**Human Rights First**, available at [www.humanrightsfirst.org](http://www.humanrightsfirst.org)
A non-profit, nonpartisan international human rights organization, Human Rights First advocates for and protects victims of crimes against humanity and other human rights violations. The “We Can End Torture Now” campaign is working to end policies that permit torture and is also advocating for a national security policy that is aligned with American laws and values.

**Human Rights Watch**, available at [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)
Human Rights Watch is an independent organization devoted to upholding human rights through advocacy work. Their site contains news articles on terrorism and counterterrorism, covering topics such as CIA operations, detention without trial and Guantanamo.

Lists and summarizes 20 links to documents and websites including government and internationally based sites.

**Dissertations and theses**

Searching the Dissertations and Theses database (ProQuest, Ann Arbor, MI) reveals just how vibrant terrorism-related research is. Whereas only eight dissertations from the year 2001 list “terrorism” as one of their keywords, 83 dissertations defended in 2009 include “terrorism” not just as a keyword but as a word in their title.
Keeping up to date on terrorism

Various feeds and alerting services are available for keeping current. Bowker’s Global Books in Print (available at www.globalbooksinprint.com) has an alerting service called “BIP Alert” which lists new books and videos based on the search parameters set by users. Similarly, subscription article databases such as Criminal Justice Abstracts (CSA Illumina), Criminal Justice Periodicals Index (ProQuest), Jane’s Terrorism and Insurgency Centre, and Praeger Security International Online offer e-mail and/or RSS alerts for user-selected search terms. Jane’s also provides free weekly e-mail alerts covering defense, security and law enforcement news (available at www2.janes.com/public/login/nb_freeRegister.html). The International Association for Counterterrorism and Security Professionals, the publisher of the Journal of Counter Terrorism and Homeland Security International, has a free mailing list (available at www.iacsp.com). Journals such as Terrorism & Political Violence, Studies in Conflict, and Terrorism provide table of contents feeds from their publisher’s site (Taylor & Francis; available at www.taylorandfrancisgroup.com). Also, the US Department of Homeland Security lists a number of feeds at www.dhs.gov/xutil/feeds.shtm

Collins’s (2008) guide to locating online information on terrorism lists additional RSS feeds and useful websites.

References


