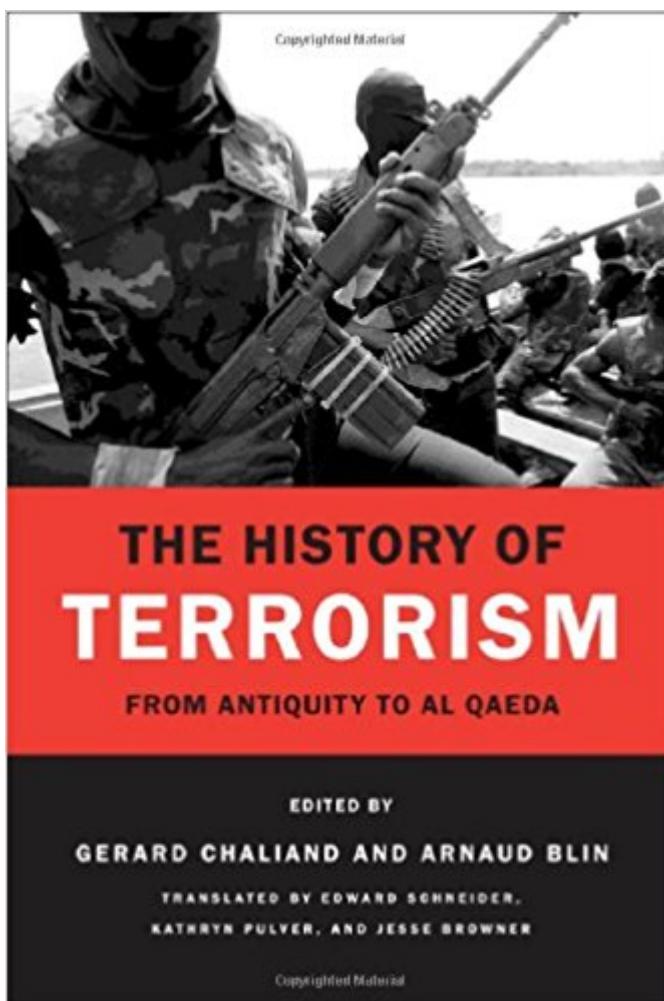


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The History Of Terrorism: From Antiquity To Al Qaeda



Synopsis

This authoritative work provides an essential perspective on terrorism by offering a rare opportunity for analysis and reflection at a time of ongoing violence, chilling threats, and renewed reprisals. In it, some of the best international specialists working on the subject today examine terrorism's long and complex history from antiquity to the present day and find that terror, long the weapon of the weak against the strong, is a tactic as old as warfare itself. Beginning with the Zealots of Antiquity, the contributors discuss the Assassins of the Middle Ages, the 1789 Terror movement in Europe, Bolshevik terrorism during the Russian Revolution, Stalinism, "resistance" terrorism during World War II, and Latin American revolutionary movements of the late 1960s. Finally, they consider the emergence of modern transnational terrorism, focusing on the roots of Islamic terrorism, al Qaeda, and the rise of the contemporary suicide martyr. Along the way, they provide a groundbreaking analysis of how terrorism has been perceived throughout history. What becomes powerfully clear is that only through deeper understanding can we fully grasp the present dangers of a phenomenon whose repercussions are far from over. Includes essays by François Giora, Rohan Gunaratna, Olivier Hubac-Occhipinti, Ariel Merari, Philippe Migaux, Yves Ternon

Book Information

Paperback: 488 pages

Publisher: University of California Press; 1 edition (August 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520247094

ISBN-13: 978-0520247093

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #189,197 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #184 in Books > History > Military > Iraq War #395 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Globalization #400 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Terrorism

Customer Reviews

"the work provides the reader with an excellent historical survey of terrorist movements and is a solid point of reference for the origins of 21st-century terrorism. . . Summing Up: Highly Recommended." (CHOICE) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gérard Chaliand is an independent scholar who has held visiting professorships at the University of California, Berkeley, the University of California, Los Angeles, and Harvard University. He is the author of more than thirty-five works including *The Art of War in History* and *Guerilla Strategies* (both UC Press). Arnaud Blin is senior fellow at the French Institute for Strategic Analysis. He is coauthor, with Gérard Chaliand, of the *Dictionnaire de stratégie militaire* and *America is Back: Les nouveaux casars du pentagone*, and, with Françoise Gérard, of *Puissances et influences: annuaire géopolitique et géostatistique*.

The History of Terrorism from Antiquity to Al Qaeda is more like a series of essays that compare and contrast the terrorism of the period in question with past forms of terrorism and what terrorism would be like in the future like how revolutionary terror relates to Al Qaeda for example. Each essay could in theory stand on its own to represent each era of terrorism, but many of these authors go further in that they make the connections between different forms and motivations for terrorism. The reader if they are brave enough to read the entire book receives this all-encompassing picture of terrorism from antiquity to Al Qaeda. Because terrorism is an evolving phenomenon, the back end of the book could use an update to encompass the late Al Qaeda period and the current threat that the world is confronting in ISIS. But even without this minor change, the authors have hit on certain commonalities of terrorism over time that one can look for as they are examining other groups that form over time. A great historical resource on terrorism that doesn't forget the present.

Kindle edition of this product is great for class. This book reveals a lot of the history behind terrorism, and makes for an amusing read. From classical times to now explore what is terrorism, state and individual, and learn something about how we are at where we are today. History does tend to repeat itself. The author tends to be liberal, but with good reasons. Anyone curious about what is really going with regards to the war on terrorism should give this a once over.

A fascinating read, but occasionally glosses over things that could use some more detail.

A great starting point for anyone interested in research into terrorism

Very helpful book

Excellent overview

"The History of Terrorism" written by Chaliand and Blin, is a very interesting book. From the beginning, we're faced with the difficult question of what constitutes terrorism. I could probably tackle this issue with several books alone. Remember that old adage, "your terrorist is my freedom fighter". One of the primary objectives of any military engagement is to effectively reduce the will of the enemy to fight - often through terror or "shock and awe". Unfortunately, the GHWB commission's definition of terrorism is adopted, in which "sub-government" organizations terrorize. Clearly, as much is later written in this book about the terrorism brought against people by Nazi and Communist regimes, little is mentioned about American terrorism against the Native Americans or Slaves or Japanese in internment camps in the USA and populace of Japanese cities in the bombings in WW2. That's a significant weakness of the book. A disproportionate and perhaps overlooked level of detail is offered on the history of terrorism by the Israeli's in their Zionist cause. The book tends to ramble often. The second half of the book was written in a much more informative manner, broken up with logical subsections, and, on the whole, seemed to be written in a much fairer style. It did not draw me in like so many other books usually do on the topic of terrorism. While this is far from just mediocre writing, it just never fully engaged me. I give this a grade of C+.

"The History of Terrorism" From Antiquity To Al Qaeda" offers a clear-eyed, unsentimental and comprehensive look at terrorism. The editors, Gerard Chaliand and Arnaud Blin, are also the major contributors to a series of well-written essays that trace the historical roots and the modern usage of terrorism. The book is divided into three sections. The first deals with the prehistory of terrorism, especially by small, specialized groups such as the Zealots. The second section covers the period 1789 to 1968, as terrorism came into its own as a tool of radical political movements. The final section, slightly more than half the book, covers the recent uses of terrorism, especially by Islamic radicals including but not limited to al-Qaeda. The text appears to have been translated from French, which may be the cause of slightly wooden prose in some of the entries. More importantly, this history is not US-centric, which may be a refreshing change for some students in this field. The approach is generally from the theoretical underpinnings of the politics and/or religious motivations of groups practicing terrorism, to the results of their efforts. "A History of Terrorism" is very highly recommended for its comprehensive and unsentimental look at the topic.

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