

Naval War College Review

Volume 33
Number 3 *May-June*

Article 21

1980

International Terrorism: An Annotated Bibliography and Research Guide

William R. Farrell

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

Recommended Citation

Farrell, William R. (1980) "International Terrorism: An Annotated Bibliography and Research Guide," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 33 : No. 3 , Article 21.

Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol33/iss3/21>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu.

124 NAVAL WAR COLLEGE REVIEW

should—or as much as they think they do—about the attitudes and opportunities shaping the choices of policy elites in these three countries. There is no more economical or painless way to acquire at least a passing familiarity with critical security issues in these three countries than to read this book.

THOMAS H. ETZOLD
Naval War College

Norton, Augustus R. and Greenberg, Martin H. *International Terrorism: An Annotated Bibliography and Research Guide*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1980. 218pp.

Bibliographies generally do not make exciting reading. However, if one is attempting to conduct research into an unknown area or endeavoring to broaden competence in an existing field, the discovery of good bibliography can be a very moving (not to mention timesaving!) experience. Norton and Greenberg have compiled an extensive survey of English language works concerning national and international terrorism. While the title indicates that it is an annotated bibliography, only one-third of the approximately 1,000 entries receive comment. The publishers indicate that "this is the only extensive annotated bibliography on the subject." In this respect they are basically—though not exactly—correct. The Central Intelligence Agency in 1976 published an unclassified annotated bibliography on the subject that is also quite helpful to the researcher. However, with the sheer number of books and articles published on the topic in the past 5 years, the CIA work is already dated. If terrorism remains "a growth industry," this book too will suffer the same fate in just a few years.

The work itself is well organized, allowing the reader to survey many aspects of terrorism. The contents are divided topically (tactics, biography, legal perspectives, etc.) and geographi-

cally (Asia, North America, Middle East, etc.). A pleasant surprise is the inclusion of over 100 fictional volumes relating to terrorism. As the authors rightfully indicate in their introduction, "Many of these works are especially well-informed and provocative, and may interest not only the pleasure reader but the student of terrorism as well." Seeing how terrorism is portrayed in various fictional accounts adds yet another perspective to this complex phenomenon.

Researchers will be grateful that the authors have taken time to "dissect" the more general works on terrorism. For these books, especially collections, the reader will find multiple listings. The "General Works" section lists the work in its entirety and the appropriate geographical or topical section references individual works contained in the collection.

At the end of the Bibliography two brief appendixes can be found to further aid the researcher. One contains a list of publications and indexes in which relevant data concerning terrorism appears on a regular basis. Two of the listed works, *Air University Index to Military Periodicals* and the *Index of Government Publications* can be extremely helpful. The other is a listing of "essential titles" for anyone seeking to build a library on the subject.

In recent years terrorism has shown itself to be part and parcel of the relationships between peoples and nations. The spectacular nature of terrorist undertakings and the attendant publicity assure knowledge of their activity by a large, if not global audience. Knowledge of an event and understanding of a phenomenon are two very distinct things. For those who wish to journey into the realm of the latter, Norton's and Greenberg's bibliography will provide a sound navigational aid.

WILLIAM R. FARRELL
Major, U.S. Air Force