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## The Soviet Threat to NATO's Northern Flank

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atomic bombs and terrorists has provided the grist for many novels. In fiction and in nonfiction we have been warned that terrorists might somehow acquire nuclear weapons and hold a society or a portion of a society hostage. Perhaps all of this concern has been no less than an unhealthy diversion, a diversion that has clouded our perspective on the problem of terrorism. It may well be that the real macroterror threat lies not with nuclear weapons at all.

In the present book, the authors do not dismiss the threat of nuclear terrorism—after all, the consequences of an albeit unlikely act are too serious to be dismissed cavalierly—but they find that the really serious dangers rest elsewhere. In their own words: "Although mass destruction is quite unlikely, other far less violent acts of national disruption are not." It is not all unlikely that a small, relatively sophisticated group of terrorists (or nuts) might exploit the vulnerabilities inherent in the domestic electric, petroleum or chemical industry and cause great disruption, economic turmoil and confusion.

To cite a relatively minor example, the *accidental* derailment of a train loaded with liquified chlorine has necessitated the evacuation of some 40,000 people. Imagine the cascading costs if such incidents were a commonplace. Nuclear weapons may be relatively difficult to design and fabricate, but there remains a panoply of nasty things that even the sidewalk psychotic might carry off. Kupperman (formerly Chief Scientist of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency) and Trent (who is affiliated with the Hoover Institution) are concerned with such threats, and the ability of the government to cope with them in the event that (sometimes frail) defenses fail. Unfortunately, the authors find considerable cause for concern. There are plenty of potential

macroterror threats lurking in the terrorists' netherland; however, Kupperman and Trent find that the United States is only poorly prepared to deal with such acts.

As of today, we are poorly prepared to deal with nationally disruptive acts of terrorism. Our capability to manage terrorist crises is limited. Our state of preparedness is not adequately developed.

The beginning of a cure to our malady of unpreparedness is this responsible and well-prepared book. Nuclear terrorism makes great thrillers, but the real-life thrillers may turn out to be far more mundane and very serious indeed. Kupperman and Trent have served us all well by providing a cogent analysis of a very significant problem.

The authors also provide a selection of eight readings to supplement their 179-page text. Of particular note are discussions of the terrorist threat to the oil and gas industries, and the problem of the medical survival of the victims of terrorism.

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Leighton, Margaret K. *The Soviet Threat to NATO's Northern Flank*. New York: National Strategy Information Center, 1979. 95pp.

Margaret Leighton's paper might well have been entitled "The Nordic Threat to NATO's Northern Flank." To a large degree one paragraph summarizes her views on the northern flank in rather ominous yet candid terms, "... the northern flank states are hampered not only by military weakness but by a variety of domestic political factors: inflation, political resistance to increased defense spending, difficulty in recruiting enough lower-ranking noncommissioned officers, a yen for Scandinavian neutrality, deep-rooted pacifism, anti-German sentiment, a sense of cultural

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isolation from continental Europe, and a fear of provoking the U.S.S.R." That pretty well says it right there and if it were not for the fact that it is such a well-written paper, there would be no use continuing reading.

The format of this paper is well structured. An analysis of the threat with historical background initially captures the reader's interest and respect for the writer's views. From there the paper is tightly organized flowing logically through a domestic appraisal of the Nordic nations. Of particular note are the political analyses of the Scandinavian countries. Margaret Leighton also foresaw, to a degree, the recent economic unrest in Sweden. While not required to hold this reviewer's attention, there are strategically placed anecdotes, such as the KGB activities in Scandinavia, that make reading this paper that much more interesting.

Other aspects of this paper are equally noteworthy, such as: an in-depth view of the status of the Communist Parties in the Scandinavian countries, the state of the social democratic experience within each nation and Soviet views *vis-à-vis* the tenuous Nordic Balance.

The Author writes with an interesting style and good perception and the book is an excellent primer for military, State Department, and business personnel with an interest in Scandinavia.

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Maland, David. *Europe at War 1600-1650*. Totowa, N.J.: Rowman and Littlefield, 1980. 219pp.

The series of European wars that occurred in the early part of the 17th century has traditionally been called "The Thirty Years' War." Dated from the Bohemian Revolt in 1618 and ending with the Peace of Westphalia in

1648, these wars have long been the subject of controversy among historians. While most have agreed that these struggles mark the transition from medieval to early modern Europe, there has been little agreement over their causes, nature, effect, or even their duration.

Traditional historians have seen the war as one that centered in Germany and that was sparked by the struggle between Catholicism and Protestantism. In this interpretation, religion was the principal issue and political concerns were secondary. The result of the war was the social and economic destruction of Germany at the hands of foreign armies that ravaged the land.

The traditional view has been modified in a variety of ways. C.V. Wedgwood's study, a masterpiece of descriptive and lucid writing, has long been considered the best available study in English. Written in the late 1930s, Miss Wedgwood's book reflects some of the early attempts to reevaluate the period. She played down the religious factor and stressed the senselessness of warfare. Writing at nearly the same time, the French historian, Georges Pagès, sought a broader interpretation of the war in terms of European international relations. His work is the most accurate narrative available.

Others writing in a variety of languages (only some of whose work has been translated) have continued the process of interpretation. Some have argued that the war was not so highly motivated by religion while others have attempted to prove that the war was not so destructive as had been previously believed. In recent years, new research has provided much new factual data. Overall, the trend has been to view the war as a more Europe-wide struggle than one confined to Germany and as a series of events that lasted more than 30 years. In trying to understand the events of this period, the student has been faced with a nearly impenetrable web of