

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As this revised and expanded 3rd Edition of my lectures book goes to press, I am reminded ever more about the debt of gratitude I owe to so many people who contributed to my own understanding of terrorism. Indeed, it has taken many years, and the contribution of many people, to make a book like this possible. When I first began teaching courses on terrorism at West Point many years ago, I knew only a fraction of what I know today. Thankfully, I was guided in my journey of learning by several pillars of the terrorism studies field, including senior colleagues at the Combating Terrorism Center (CTC): General (ret.) Wayne Downing, Distinguished Chair; Professor Bruce Hoffman, Senior Fellow; Ambassador Michael Sheehan, Senior Fellow; and most especially Brigadier General (ret.) Russ Howard, Founding Director of the CTC and Head of the Social Sciences Department at West Point. After General Downing's untimely passing, General (ret.) John Abizaid accepted the position of Distinguished Chair at the CTC, and it was an honor to work with him until I left.

Just like many young academics, I studied the works of the world's most respected international experts in the field, like Martha Crenshaw, Brian Jenkins, Alex Schmid, Leonard Weinberg, and David Rapoport. Over the course of the last decade, I have had the privilege of professionally collaborating with each of them, and I thank them for the indulgence and encouragement. Of course, my colleagues and friends at West Point were instrumental in expanding my learning about terrorism and counterterrorism, and none more so than Jarret Brachman, Assaf Moghadam, Colonel Joe Felter, Colonel Kip McCormick, Colonel Scott Womack, Colonel Cindy Jebb, Colonel Isaiah (Ike) Wilson, Colonel Suzanne Nielsen, Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Sousa, Lieutenant Colonel Gingee Guilmartin, Major Rick Wrona, Jr., Thom Sherlock, Brian

Fishman, Clint Watts, Will McCants, Lianne Kennedy Boudali, Bill Braniff, Erich Marquardt, and, of course, my good friend Ruth Margolies Beitler.

Throughout this professional journey, a great many colleagues and friends at other institutions have also been vital to developing my understanding of terrorism, and I must take the opportunity here to thank Alex Schmid, Jennifer Giroux, Matthew Levitt, Erica Chenoweth, David Kilcullen, Peter Neumann, Vera Eccarius-Kelly, Annette Idler, Max Abrahms, Gary Ackerman, Victor Asal, Arie Perliger, Ami Pedahzur, Vanda Felbab-Brown, Gabriel Weiman, Magnus Ranstorp, Paul Pillar, John Hogan, Joshua Sinai, Jessica Stern, JM Berger, and no doubt hundreds more whom I have sadly overlooked at the moment. And certainly this adventure would not have been possible without the generosity, 15 years ago, of people like Vincent Viola, Rob Andy, George Gilmore III, and Ross Perot, whose financial support of the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point was absolutely critical.

The adventure continues today at the Center for Terrorism and Security Studies at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, where I am most grateful to work with great scholars like Arie Perliger and Neil Shortland. Other colleagues in the School of Criminology and Justice Studies have provided support and inspiration, including our chair, Professor Sheldon Zhang. I sincerely appreciate the editing assistance and suggestions provided by Eli Stiefel, Robert Kerins, and Jodi Pomeroy. And of course, Nathan Gonzales of Nortia Press has been tremendously important to the continued improvement and success of this Lectures book project.

Finally, I share my deepest gratitude to my family for their enduring support and encouragement: my father, my four brothers and sister, my wife Alicia and my two amazing children Chloe and Jackson, all of whom have provided years of encouragement and hope. And as I explained in the acknowledgments to the first edition of this book (published in 2012), these lectures are dedicated to my mother, Jeri Lynn Mallard, who died of cancer when I was 14 years old (she was 37). All of her children remain inspired by her commitment to family, education, serving her community, and improving the world around us. I also dedicate the book to Frank Crotty, who recently died of cancer. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather, a military veteran, a leader of Boston longshoremen, and an avid reader of books whom I was proud to call my father-in-law.

PROLOGUE TO THE THIRD EDITION

If you have seen other books on terrorism, you might be asking yourself, “Okay, what’s unique about this one?” Here’s my 10-second response: This book is meant to simulate the experience of a semester-long university course on terrorism. Each chapter represents a 45- to 60-minute lecture.

That’s it, in a nutshell. If the study of terrorism is in fact something of interest to you, my intent has been to make this collection of lectures informative, engaging, and accessible to a general readership.*

The lectures have also been helpful to some friends and colleagues who teach their own courses on terrorism. Each chapter provides a short list of questions for discussion that are meant to encourage classroom interaction and are also sometimes useful for short paper assignments or midterm exam questions. And the final lecture in this series offers several questions about the future of terrorism, which could also be used for course assignments (final exam questions, research papers, etc.). There might even be some useful nuggets in here for researchers and scholars of terrorism studies, policymakers, congressional staffers, military and intelligence officers, newspaper editors, and Hollywood scriptwriters.

UPDATES TO THE 3RD EDITION

Much has happened in the world of terrorism and counterterrorism since the first edition of this lecture series was published in 2012. The Islamic State came to the

*If you are interested strictly in the topic of *combating* terrorism, please note that a separate volume of my lectures on counterterrorism strategies and tactics will be published at a later date.

forefront of the global Salafi-jihadist landscape, launching attacks and capturing territory in Iraq and Syria—where they announced their so-called caliphate—as well as inspiring (and in some cases directing) terror attacks in France, Belgium, Germany, the U.K., and other European countries. Then, particularly through the latter half of 2017, the group was forced out of its territory and lost much of its resource base and ideological attraction to foreign fighters. In the United States, terror attacks in Boston, San Bernardino, Calif., and Orlando, Fla. were motivated by the same jihadist ideological objectives. Meanwhile, longstanding groups like the FARC in Colombia and ETA in Spain have declared permanent ceasefires and engaged in demobilization and political processes. And in early 2017 the Palestinian terror group Hamas issued a new charter in which they had deleted their historical demands for the destruction of Israel, and toward the end of that year they negotiated a peace deal with the Palestinian Authority and relinquished control of the Gaza Strip.

As a result of these and other events, this new edition of the textbook contains a variety of updates from the previous editions. To begin with, the lectures on al-Qaeda have been replaced with much a more expansive discussion of the global Salafi-jihadist movement (in Lecture 12) that encompasses Islamic State, al-Qaeda and their networks of affiliates groups. This was necessary to account for how the movement has evolved significantly over the last 10 years. Likewise, the former lecture on terrorist groups as learning organizations has been replaced by a new and more robust lecture on terrorist group decision-making (Lecture 13). The increase in violence by right-wing extremists, particularly following the election of President Trump, inspired some revision and expansion of the lecture on that topic (Lecture 10). New material on assessing the threat of a nuclear terrorist attack has been added to Lecture 18. And of course, the final chapter on the future of terrorism and counterterrorism has been significantly revised to account for recent events.

The organization of the lectures has also been revised to reflect feedback from professors around the country who use this textbook in their courses and offered suggestions for how the sequence of lectures could better align with the organization of their syllabi. Within each of the lectures, a host of updates and revisions have been made to account for recent events, as well as to reflect insights gained from newly published research in the study of terrorist radicalization, decision-making, and the ways that terrorists are using social media and other technologies to advance their ideological agendas. The lists of recommended resources for further study, provided at the end of each chapter, have also been updated accordingly.

AUTHOR'S BIO

Now that you've read some explanation about this book, I suppose another question you may have is something like, "Well then, who is this guy?" I'm a tenured full professor in the School of Criminology and Justice Studies at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. I also serve as a senior fellow at the Joint Special Operations University, where I hold a security clearance and work on research and other initiatives. I previously spent nine years on the faculty of the United States Military Academy (2001–2010). During six of those years, I served as Director of Terrorism Studies within the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, originally led by Colonel (now Brigadier General, retired) Russell Howard, a U.S. Special Forces officer and Head of the Social Sciences Department. Retired four-star General Wayne Downing, formerly a Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) and a Special Advisor to the President for Counterterrorism, served as our Distinguished Chair until his sudden and tragic passing in July 2007. During my last few years there, the Center was led by Colonel Mike Meese, Head of the Social Sciences Department, and retired four-star General John Abizaid served as our Distinguished Chair. If you're not familiar with the Center, please take a look at the website (<https://www.ctc.usma.edu>). It truly is a terrific institution.

While a good deal of time was spent teaching courses on international relations, terrorism, counterterrorism, information warfare, weapons of mass destruction, and so forth, I was also able to publish nine books and many articles that have hopefully been useful to colleagues and professionals in the field. Other highlights of those years include being invited to give testimony at a U.S. Senate subcommittee hearing on countering violent extremism; giving keynote addresses and speeches at events for senior NATO officers, FBI field office supervisors, and the Department of the Army; and lecturing at the University of St. Andrews, University of Haifa, and Harvard University, among other institutions. At one point, I found myself on a stage in Zurich, Switzerland giving a speech at an international security conference alongside John Brennan, who later became President Obama's chief Advisor for Counterterrorism, and then CIA Director. And I'll never forget meeting with then-Rear Admiral Bill McRaven during a visit to Special Operations Command–Africa.

As part of a multi-year collaboration between the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point and the FBI Deputy Director for Counterterrorism, I developed a new textbook on terrorism that was subsequently adopted for their New Agent Training

program in Quantico, and then I traveled to various parts of the United States giving talks at Joint Terrorism Task Force seminars. I also accompanied groups of West Point cadets on visits to the White House, National Counterterrorism Center, State Department, and Directorate of National Intelligence. Overall, when I look back at nearly a decade on the faculty at West Point, it certainly was a wild and fantastic adventure, one that I will always cherish fondly.

Within the past few years, I've been privileged to collaborate with world-renowned scholars in the Center for Terrorism and Security Studies at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Professor Emeritus Alex Schmid and I serve as co-editors of the internationally acclaimed scholarly journal *Perspectives on Terrorism*, with over 8,000 subscribers worldwide and many more thousands reading the open source issues on our website. I've had opportunities to give lectures at the National Intelligence University, Joint Special Operations University, and various events for senior U.S. military and NATO officers. In 2010, I was able to spend time in Nigeria to conduct research on Boko Haram, and visited Senegal in 2011 to study the political and security challenges facing that country. In 2013, I spent some time in Uganda to study counterterrorism lessons that can be drawn from the recent cooperation between U.S. Special Operations Forces and regional militaries in tracking down Joseph Kony and his murderous followers in the Lord's Resistance Army. And each spring semester since 2011, I've taught (as a visiting professor) a graduate course on terrorism and counterterrorism at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

In sum, I've been studying, writing, and teaching about terrorism and counterterrorism for the bulk of my professional career. And yet, I still consider myself a student of this field. There is so much to learn, so many things to understand about the complex phenomenon we call terrorism and the ways in which we can confront it more successfully. For my part, I plan to keep working in this field for many years to come. Hopefully, this book will encourage and inspire some of you to do the same.

James J.F. Forest
Dover, N.H.
February, 2018