

Editor's Note:

Terrorism, as an intellectual and practical inquiry, did not begin with 9/11. Rather, it has been a permanent fixture of learning since the dawn of human history. Yet, it is the "Age of Terrorism" which emerged following World War II that encouraged unprecedented interdisciplinary study by governmental, intergovernmental, and nongovernmental bodies.

As we are launching *Terrorism: An Electronic Journal and Knowledge Base* it is amply clear that numerous official and private institutions throughout the world have contributed directly and indirectly to a better understanding of the complex challenge of contemporary terrorism, and what societies must do to reduce the risks on conventional and unconventional levels.

Acknowledgement of the intellectual inspiration and academic opportunities to engage in the study of terrorism in the 1950s and the 1960s are due to the University of Chicago and Columbia University. During the next four decades, the supportive role of the Institute for Studies in International Terrorism (State University of New York), the Center for Strategic and International Studies (Georgetown University), the Institute of Social and Behavioral Pathology (Yale University and the University of Chicago), the Terrorism Studies Program (The George Washington University), and the Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies (administered by both the International Center for Terrorism Studies at The Potomac Institute for Policy Studies and the Inter-University Center for Legal Studies at the International Law Institute) was critical in developing educational programs and several book series consisting of over 100 volumes in English and dozens of languages.

In connection with the inauguration of this electronic effort, mention should be made of the four related earlier publications that I have founded and served as editor-in-chief. *Terrorism: An International Journal* (Crane Russak, 1977), *Political Communication and Persuasion* (published in 1980 by Crane Russak); *International Journal on Group Rights* (Martinus Nijhoff, 1990) [This publication was subsequently renamed *The International Journal on Minority and Group Rights*]; *The Partnership for Peace Review* under the international auspices of NATO and launched in 2010 by the Partnership for Peace Training Center in Ankara.

Another academic and professional effort was *Terrorism: An International Resource File*, launched by University Microfilms Incorporated (UMI) in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1987. The purpose of this publishing program was to provide access to the diversified material on terrorism from governmental, inter-governmental, and non-governmental perspectives.

In short, *Terrorism: An Electronic Journal and Knowledge Base* will provide a continuity to our earlier works on the "Age of Terrorism," as well as strive to close research gaps in the growing literature on the manifold aspects of the subject. This online resource will focus on identifying warning signals on the manifold forms of terrorism in the post-9/11 era and recommending national, regional, and global strategies to confront the potential challenges to all societies.

It is hoped that *Terrorism: An Electronic Journal and Knowledge Base* will establish itself as a thought-provoking and academically stimulating tool of literature in furthering the cause of peace with justice.

Professor Yonah Alexander

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