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Terrorism: A Very Short Introduction

By Charles Townshend



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Is one person's terrorist another's freedom fighter? Is terrorism crime or war? Can there be a 'War on Terror'?

For many, the terrorist attacks of September 2001 changed the face of the world, pushing terrorism to the top of many political agendas, and leading to a series of world events including the war in Iraq and the invasion of Afghanistan. Charting a clear path through the efforts to understand and explain modern terrorism, Charles Townshend unravels a series of complex questions, including 'Are terrorists criminals?', 'How far does media publicity sustain terrorism?', and 'What can be done about it?'

Fully updated for 2011, this *Very Short Introduction* examines the historical, ideological, and local roots of terrorist violence. Townshend explores terrorism in relation to revolutionary power, nationalism, and religious extremism, considering the successes of specific terrorist and anti-terrorist campaigns in the distant past, and in recent years. Providing a discussion surrounding the on-going debates about the erosion of civil liberties in response to increased terrorist activities, Townshend addresses the question we are all facing: how does terrorism end?



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Review

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--the Guardian Review 07/12/2002

"Like the other excellent books in this series, this is rigorous and compelling [...] balanced and sensible"

--The Independent on Sunday 17/11/2002

About the Author

Charles Townshend is Professor of International History at Keele University. He has held fellowships at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina and the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington, DC. Amongst his previous publications are *Political Violence in Ireland* (1983), *Making the Peace: public order and public security in modern Britain* (1993), and *Ireland: the twentieth century* (1999). His most recent books are *Easter 1916: the Irish rebellion* (2005) and *When God Made Hell: the British Invasion of Mesopotamia and the Creation of Iraq, 1914-1921* (2010).

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