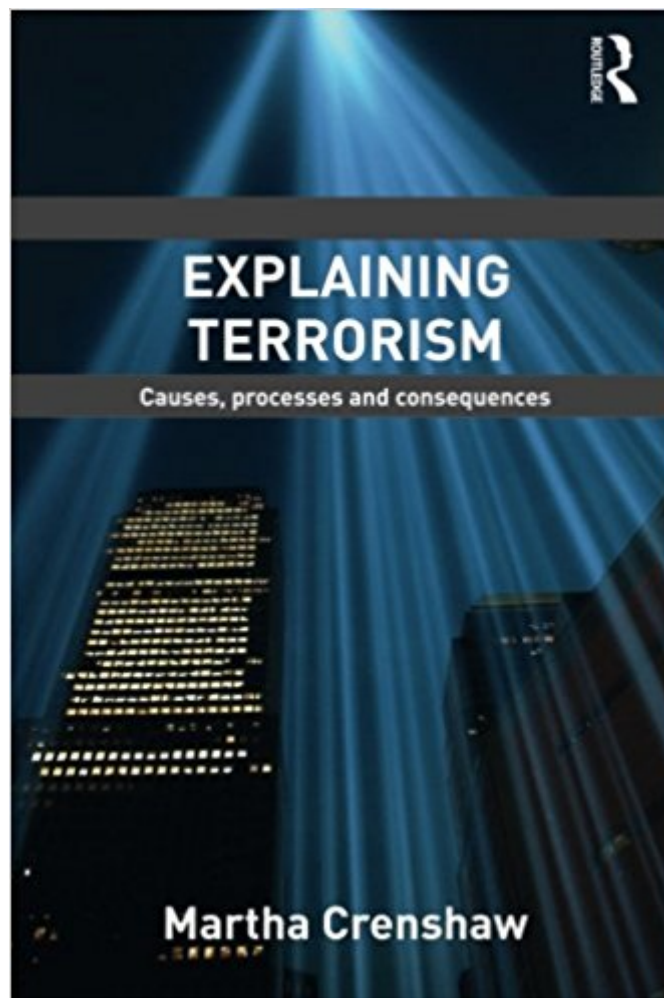




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# Explaining Terrorism: Causes, Processes And Consequences (Political Violence)



## Synopsis

This volume comprises some of the key essays by Professor Crenshaw, from 1972 to the present-day, on the causes, processes and consequences of terrorism. Since the early 1970s, scholars and practitioners have tried to explain terrorism and to assess the effectiveness of government responses to the threat. From its beginnings in a small handful of analytical studies, the research field has expanded to thousands of entries, with an enormous spike following the 9/11 attacks. The field of terrorism studies is now impressive in terms of quantity, scope, and variety. Professor Crenshaw had studied terrorism since the late 1960s, well before it was topical, and this selection of her work represents the development of her thought over time in four areas: defining terrorism and identifying its causes the different methods used to explain terrorism, including strategic, organisational and psychological approaches how campaigns of terrorism end how governments can effectively contribute to the ending of terrorism. This collection of essays by one of the pioneering thinkers in the field of terrorism studies will be essential reading for all students of political violence and terrorism, security studies and IR/politics in general.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'The leading global thinker on the study of terrorism, Martha Crenshaw has for thirty years produced the most creative, rigorous and important contributions our field has known. And now these can all be found in one place. This book is simply the one indispensable text that every student, scholar

and researcher of terrorism and political violence must have. Literally the best of the best.' - John Horgan, Pennsylvania State University, USA "Explaining terrorism requires an interdisciplinary approach able to address contextual causes, organizational dynamics and individual motifs. This combination of different levels of the analysis has been at the core of Martha Crenshaw's influential contributions to the field of terrorism study, the best of which are now collected in this precious volume." - Donatella della Porta, European University Institute, Florence, Italy 'When it comes to the study of terrorism from a genuine social science perspective, professor Martha Crenshaw is the scholar of reference and became so long before the field gained academic centrality worldwide after 9/11.' - Fernando Reinares, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid, Spain "In this important volume, the author, a prominent academic expert on terrorism, has assembled her articles, many of which were previously published in the 1980s and 1990s, with a few published after 2001. The result is a comprehensive compilation that is divided into four parts" - Joshua Sinai, Terrorism Bookshelf: Top 150 Books on Terrorism and Counterterrorism, Perspectives on Terrorism, Vol. 6, No. 2 (2012)

Martha Crenshaw is a Senior Fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) and the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, and Professor of Political Science, by courtesy, at Stanford University. She is also Professor of Government Emerita at Wesleyan University. She is a lead investigator with the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland.

Extremely informative, readable, with a logic sequence, makes for an excellent academic resource. Highly recommended for those studying in the field of international relations, politics, or counterterrorism.

Martha Crenshaw is one of America's leading authorities on terrorism. I loaned my copy to a student who never returned it, has since graduated & relocated. This is a replacement copy which shall not grow legs!

Martha Crenshaw is not someone who became a terrorism expert in the wake of 9/11/01 or even the earlier World Trade Center attack in 1993. Rather, the author entered the field with an interest in 19th century Russian revolutionaries. By 1967 she was focusing on the Algerian FLN. Startling events bring international attention to terrorism and inevitably create instant commentators based on

15 minutes background scanning wire reports. That is not Crenshaw. Crenshaw points out that 1960's terrorism had specific demands, whereas Al Qaeda uses mass casualties without specific demands. Its threat is existential, changing life in an orderly democratic society into a fearful, risky experience, and, in the process, causing massive economic dislocation into protective strategies. Although my favorite terrorists or violent separatists, if you prefer, the Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) are barely mentioned by Crenshaw, they are a superb example of achieving specific goals by tying them to specific terror tactics. The author does note that, "Clinton Administration special envoy Robert Gelbard publicly called the Kosovo Liberation Army a terrorist group" in 1998, but does not include their decade of activities in her analysis of more than 70 terrorist organizations beginning in 1963. Terrorist groups in the Balkans, including 17 November in Greece, are excluded from Crenshaw's authoritative global study of historical terrorism. In late July 2011, one naturally wonders how well this book explains the Norwegian terrorist, Anders Behring Breivik? Crenshaw is very helpful in providing the intellectual framework for considering any terrorist. He was acting in the context of ... "a peaceful and orderly setting where violence is the exception rather than the rule." Breivik created mass casualties in a brief time period on a scale comparable to 9/11 in the U.S. (as a percentage of the small population of Norway) that was equally unimaginable to that society. But, in contrast to 9/11, seemingly, he did it alone. Over more than a year, Breivik carefully planned and prepared his terrorist attack in exacting detail. He was responding violently to state policies he opposed, a causal aspect dealt with at length in Crenshaw. Unlike Al Qaeda's actors but like the KLA, Breivik was not suicidal. "Social myths, traditions, and habits permit the development of terrorism as an established political custom" -an excellent explanation of the KLA but not of Breivik's Norwegian environment. However, Crenshaw emphasizes the role of a permissive society in accommodating terrorism such as Breivik's: "...terrorism does not occur in efficient and ruthless dictatorships..." Next, we might ask whether Breivik achieved his goals as the KLA did? The immediate assessment is that like the Basques, Bretons, and most of the groups studied by Crenshaw, he utterly failed, and in fact may have set back the political goals he espoused. He has undercut the nonviolent parties in Norway that oppose multiculturalism. They have quickly disavowed Breivik and separated themselves from his goals. Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg gave an unprecedented address at the Central Jamaat Mosque and held meetings with Muslim leaders aimed at intensifying the multicultural importance and unity in Norway. In contrast, the KLA acquired NATO as its air force, which launched an intense 79 day bombing campaign against Serbs. In the end the Serbian population was ethnically cleansed from most of Kosovo and dozens of countries (although not the UN Security Council) ultimately recognized the breakaway

province of Serbia as an independent nation.Crenshaw's concluding advice is as sobering as it is unwelcome. "The government that adopts a conciliatory policy may inadvertently signal that terrorism works. Thus the alternative to terrorism is not always nonviolence, and the choice of a nonviolent strategy is not always reciprocated by one's opponent."

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