

An Introduction to *US Counter-Terrorism Campaign after 911*

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Before the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Bush administration was criticized for taking a unilateralist path in international affairs. Soon after the unprecedented attacks on the US, President Bush decided to wage his war on terrorism with a military campaign in Afghanistan and Iraq and has also attached much more importance to homeland defense and security. The tragedy has forced the US to realize that no single country can be independent in its efforts to halt terrorism but has also driven the US government into a series of measures to strengthen its capabilities to meet the counter-terrorism challenge. New institutions or positions such as the Northern Command, the Homeland Security Department, National Counterterrorism Center, and the National Intelligence Director were created to keep the US safe. Several legislative measures such as the passage of the Aviation Security Act, and the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT) Act of 2001 were quickly adopted to secure the US without turning it into a fortress.

On December 5-6, 2002, the Institute of European and American Studies sponsored an international conference on changes in US government and policy after the September 11th attacks. The major theme of this conference was to examine the

aftermath of this tragedy and its implications for US government and its policies. In addition to a keynote speech delivered by the head of the newly appointed American Institute in Taiwan, Douglas Paal, local and international scholars and practitioners also participated in the conference.

Of the fifteen papers presented at the conference, four of them were related to US public administration and policies in the aftermath of the September 11th attack, five of them dealt with US foreign and security policies. The other six looked into issues of counter-terrorism through various mechanisms, including financial and judicial actions. Several US scholars were invited to present their papers, including Robert Sutter of Georgetown University, Laurence J. O'Toole, Jr. of University of Georgia, John F. Murphy of Villanova University School of Law, and Ralph Cossa of the Pacific Forum of Center of Security and International Studies, etc. After the conference, a thorough review process was undertaken. Two articles were selected for inclusion in this volume, and are related to civil liberties infringement and the disrupting of the financial infrastructure of terrorism. Both authors have a background in political science and are teaching at the same University, National Cheng-chi University.

Although Samuel Huntington's *the Clash of Civilizations* is not prejudiced the Muslim and the Arab world, the terrorists involved in the 911attacks and the subsequent bombings in Bali, Jakarta, Madrid, and London deepened observers' perceptions of terrorism and its relations with the Islamic fundamentalists. In his paper, Dr. Yen Chen-shen examines US civil liberties aberrations during the World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and particularly in the aftermath of the 911 terrorists attacks. Examining six cases of civil liberties violations in the aftermath of 911, Yen concluded that most of serious infringements were related to rights of the accused, right to privacy, and racial, ethnic and religious profiling. He also detected that no concerted efforts by the Bush administration "to violate civil liberties on the scale of Japanese internment during World War II" occurred.

The civil liberties were not the only thing being challenged in the US, as the Congress and press also questioned the practice of cruel and inhumane treatment or torture of Iraqi prisoners of war. The popularity of President Bush has shrunk to a record low of under 40% and his war on Iraq has been met with challenges for a quick withdraw of US troops from that country. President Bush has taken steps to eradicate the roots of terrorism not only within the US but also through international coalition efforts. Bush has pushed forward the Arabic and Islamic world's democratic reform in a Greater Middle East Plan. The US and other European allies have also adopted a series of measures to solve political, economic, social and cultural problems in the region, calling for the establishment of a free electoral system, the separation of education from Islamic Fundamentalism, the freedom of the press and speech, opening markets and providing women with freedom to join the army and do business.

In addition to cracking down on terrorists through monitoring and surveillance devices, the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 contains a wide array of provisions designed to enhance the ability to combat the financing of terrorism and money laundering. For example, the Patriot Act imposes responsibilities for opening and monitoring bank accounts, permits information sharing within the government and among financial institutions, bars transactions with shell banks, requires information from foreign financial institutions, protects sensitive evidence from disclosure, and expands the industry sectors subject to rigorous anti-money laundering and terrorist financing compliance programs.

Dr. Szu-yin Ho in his paper examines the financial front of the War on Terrorism and surveys the functioning and operations of the most important anti-money laundering body, the Financing Action Task Force (FATF), and the FATF-style regional body such as the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering. Both bodies were established long before the 911th attacks occurred. FATF adopted eight principles of conduct specifically directed at terrorist financing. The US Treasury Department has also prompted other

international financing bodies such as the Group of 7, the Group of 20, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to take actions, enlisting their member nations in the comprehensive program against terror.

Through efforts such as targeting all individuals and institutions linked to global terrorism, freezing assets subject to US jurisdiction, prohibiting suspected transactions, and punishing financial institutions in the US and abroad that continue to provide resources and services to terrorist organizations, the US, Dr. Ho believes and argues in his paper, still encounters three difficulties in suppressing terrorist financing. As the counter-terrorism is a marathon, Ho concludes, "the financial front of the War on Terrorism is going to be a drawn-out process."

Although the global counter-terrorism campaign may not be finished anytime soon, the world is not safer than in 2001. Border security has tightened and international loopholes filled, but with the death toll of US troops in Iraq climbing to more than two thousand, the Bush administration has faced strong opposition not only from Democrats but also from his own party. Opinion leaders and the general public in the US still perceive protection against terrorism and the prevention of the spread of weapons of mass destructions as top long-term policy objectives. Still, the Pew Research Center released a survey on "America's Place in the World" on November 17, 2005, which indicates that they are "taking a decidedly cautious view of America's place in the world," and are less supportive of the US playing a "first among equals" role among the world's leading nations. As the sole and lonely superpower turns cautious and looks inward, the 911 attacks redefine national security and indicate that no country can be fully exempt from the threat of terrorism.