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The Terrorism Ahead: Confronting Transnational Violence in the Twenty-first Century

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driving nation-states and international relations today.

RICHMOND M. LLOYD
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Smith, Paul. *The Terrorism Ahead: Confronting Transnational Violence in the Twenty-first Century*. New York: M. E. Sharpe, 2007. 258pp. \$79.95

Paul Smith's *The Terrorism Ahead* is a superbly written blend of history, contemporary analysis, and personal reflection. It is the product of thorough research and study plus a decade's worth of vigorous debate with an international cast of students, colleagues (Smith is currently a professor at the Naval War College), counterterrorism practitioners, and academic specialists. The author's arguments thus merit serious and thoughtful consideration. As a participant in many of these debates (I am a former colleague of Smith's, and we did not always agree), I can attest to the "trials by fire" to which the ideas expressed in this book were subjected.

The Terrorism Ahead provides a comprehensive, balanced, yet succinct overview of the key contemporary debates in terrorism studies. Smith skillfully examines terrorism in its wider historical, geopolitical, and technological contexts. This contextualization of the global environment in which terrorism lives and evolves is the book's great strength, and what makes it a valuable contribution to the literature.

Chapter 2, "Historical Evolution," is one of the best one-stop short histories of terrorism in print. One might also single out chapter 8, where Smith tackles terrorism financing and associated

legal issues. The closing chapter presents a compelling analysis of the "root causes" debate and its implications for U.S. policy, plus a thought-provoking look at the future. In this chapter, Smith argues that five conditions will shape terrorism in the years ahead: demography, globalization, transnational crime, weak/failed states, and climate change. Smith is one of the few people working in terrorism studies to seriously consider the implications of climate change.

Throughout the work, Smith also explains how changes in communications, information, and weapons technologies have helped shape the conduct of terrorism. It would have been interesting, therefore, if he had added a discussion of emerging and predicted advances in technologies—such as nanotechnology and genetic engineering—that may provide future tools for terrorists.

All in all, *The Terrorism Ahead* is an engaging, comprehensive, and thoughtful consideration of the challenge of terrorism. It should find itself equally at home on the bookshelves of specialists, general readers, and students.

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Cordesman, Anthony. *Salvaging American Defense: The Challenge of Strategic Overstretch*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2007. 488pp. \$49.95

Anthony Cordesman, current holder of the Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy at the Center for International and Security Studies in Washington, D.C., is one of the most prolific defense analysts in the United States today. *Salvaging*