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## Political Terrorism, Volume 2: 1974-78

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dismantled several times each day to clear them of ice. Breakfasts were half a biscuit spread with cook's fat (which Smith described as brown axle grease), dinners the same with the addition of an ounce or so of boiled meat or oatmeal or suet. By late February, everyone on board looked forward to the twice-a-week banquet of soup made of biscuit dust and table scraps that the cook had providentially saved early in the voyage with a view to selling it as pig's food on return to Hull. The captain died the day after Christmas of cold and fatigue. Scurvy was first detected in early January (with only three gallons of inferior—later frozen—lime juice on board) and the first scurvy death occurred in mid-February.

Some breakup of the ice began in early March and after 2 weeks of struggle *Diana* was free of the ice and homeward bound on 17 March, arriving in the Shetlands on 2 April. Two of the 13 men who died (of a crew of 51) did so within sight of home.

The diary teaches no strategic, tactical, nor even seamanship lessons. It is inconceivable that any seaman of today could find himself in similar circumstances. But some men continue to be called on to cope with conditions seemingly unendurable. And some of them find something to draw on, to sustain them and that they did and do so and how they did and do it are worthy of our attention, if not to instruct us then to inspire us.

W.R. PETTYJOHN  
Commander, U.S. Navy

Sobel, Lester A., ed. *Political Terrorism, Volume 2: 1974-78*. New York: Facts on File, 1978. 279pp.

Sobel, Lester A., *Palestinian Impasse: Arab Guerrillas & International Terror*. New York: Facts on File, 1977. 282pp.

The public is constantly blitzed with "barometers," "indicators" and

"indexes" that purport to measure everything from the economy to morale in the military. While there is no precise index for the effect of contemporary political terrorism on our collective consciousness, there can be no doubt that the terrorism phenomena would rate very highly on any such scale. Consider for example that one standard library reference lists over 40 nonfiction books "in print" on the subject of terrorism and that this represents a doubling over a 2-year period. Or consider the hundreds of novels (ranging from literature to thrillers to pulps) that feature casts of terrorists whose aspirations range from survival to controlling the world.

Unfortunately, most works on terrorism—whether fiction or nonfiction, and sometimes a single book will be a blend of each—present a point of view that is by definition colored by the prejudices of its author. It is simply difficult to get the facts without an accompanying sermon on the depravity (or virtuousness) of terrorism by sub-national groups (or governments). Thus, it is very refreshing to find sources for factual accounts that allow the reader to draw his own conclusions.

Both *Palestinian Impasse* and *Political Terrorism* are straightforward presentations of facts, and do allow the reader to draw his own conclusions. Published by the Facts on File Corporation, renowned for its standard library reference of the same name, each book represents a compilation of the significant news and developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the problem of terrorism respectively.

*Palestinian Impasse* treats the developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict since the 1967 war up to the middle of 1977, while *Political Terrorism, Volume 2* provides coverage from 1974 to May 1978 (the cutoff seems to have been the murder of Aldo Moro). The terrorism volume is organized geographically, with very strong sections of the Middle East and Latin America, while the other

volume is organized more or less chronologically.

As might be expected, there is considerable overlap between the two volumes in the treatment of the Middle East, but this is probably defensible. The only real deficiency appears to be the indexes, which could have been rather more complete. For example, the terrorist incident at the December 1975 meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna is treated succinctly in *Political Terrorism*, but the reader would never find it in the index (whether he searched under "OPEC," "Vienna," "Austria," or any of the fedayeen organizations, or for that matter "Carlos"—who after all led the raid). This is an important criticism, as the greatest value of books such as these is as reference works. It should also be indicated, as the reader may have already noted, that *Palestinian Impasse* is far broader in scope than its subtitle would indicate.

Those who are interested in the subjects encompassed by these books—whether professionally or avocationally—will find *Palestinian Impasse* and *Political Terrorism* useful sources for the raw data. Neither of the books have great armchair reading potential, but they do deserve consideration for inclusion in private and institutional libraries.

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Southworth, Herbert Rutledge.  
*Guernica! Guernica!* Berkeley: University of California Press, 1977. 537pp.

Herbert Southworth is a certified aficionado of the Spanish Civil War, and this 500-page study is a reflection of this interest. It is without doubt the most heavily researched and documented re-statement of the ex post facto obvious since Will Shakespeare's would-be lover was subjected to literary scrutiny.

Subtitled "A study of journalism, diplomacy, propaganda and history," it is exactly that. The difficulty, if one may express this view, is that it features overkill. The subject is the devastation by Axis/rebel bombing of the Basque center of Guernica in April 1937. It was the first major application of terror bombing of civilians as Europe practiced for the tasks of World War II.

For 500 pages we refight the propaganda event following upon the murderous 3-hour attack. There is no doubt today that Franco forces were responsible, and, for that matter, even on that eventful day, there was no doubt who carried out the bombing. There were, after all, victims, survivors, and eye-witnesses. Yet, surprisingly enough, the intervening years led to a sordid battle between Spanish loyalists and rebels and their international supporters about who really carried out the raid.

The book pursues each and every lead, each and every article, and each and every charge and countercharge, down to the present. It becomes tedious as the propagandists beclouded the issue. Yet, one question remains and eventually Southworth airs it: why Guernica, a small, but historically important Basque symbol?

The answer, something of a shocker, goes back into the ideological history of the era, pitting the Catholics against the "Reds." The reality, it would seem, is to be found in the psychological contradiction, offensive to the nationalists, that Spanish Basque Catholics were largely loyal to the republic, alleged to be Communist. One could not easily mount an international campaign based on the Catholic right, if an important historic enclave of Catholic Spain remained loyal. Thus, the Condor Legion employed its skill to break the Basque morale and support.

I found the book too long, though professionally done. The viciousness of that civil war was amply demonstrated, and to me the cynicism and utter