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"From total war to war against terrorism", Piotr Mickiewicz, Krzysztof Kubiak (ed.), Wrocław 2007 : [recenzja]

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

Piotr Mickiewicz, Krzysztof Kubiak (ed.),
From total war to war against terrorism,
Wydawnictwo Naukowe Dolnośląskiej Wyższej
Szkoły Edukacji TWP, Wrocław 2007

The begging of the XXI century is very fruitful with many books dealing with terrorist organizations and their activities. Authors try to analyze the reasons for their actions and predict possible future of these organizations and their role in the politics and economy in the new century. *From total war to war against terrorism* is one of such very interesting positions devoted to this problem. It is an after conference publication which consists of thirty articles set in six parts connected with terrorism but seen from different angles.

The first part *Political and social aspects of European security during cold war* consists of two articles, the first written by Krzysztof Kubiak describes Polish aid to Greek communist's guerilla between 1947 and 1950. It reviles very interesting aspects of Greek civil war and medical and training assistance of Polish government which was not known either to the West nor in Poland.

The next article is a continuation of the Greek history but at present and connected with Greek community in Gdynia between 1940 and 1989. Written by Iwona Jakimowicz-Ostrowska gives very interesting information and figure about Greeks in Poland and particularly in Gdynia city. It must be underlined that the two cultures live and work peacefully next to each other and the future is rather bright for them.

The second part, titled *Geostrategic situation in the selected regions and its influence on international security* consists of four very interesting works. The first item was written by Emma Csak from Canada and discusses the changes of in the United States politics in Central Asia in It is an interesting view on the situation after the cold war and how in influenced American politics in this area and the need of collaboration of regional states close to the center of conflict.

Arkadiusz Płaczek writes about *Changes and continuities in Libyan foreign policy*. He stresses in his article that although the US re-established the diplomatic relation in May 2006 and erased Libya from the list of terrorism sponsoring countries, the history of Libyan foreign policy shows that, for elites in Tripoli short-range aims are more important than long-terms allies and we should be very careful.

Krzysztof Rokiciński in his article *From total war to asymmetric war* states that in future this problem should be treated as as a complex idea, because asymmetric threats hale common basis and fighting them should not be restricted to one of them only. A very interesting point of view worth reading.

Piracy, armed robbery and maritime terrorism in Southern Asia and its impact into global economy by Anna Niwczyk is a very fascinating peace of writing giving a lot of infor-

mation about major chokepoint, container security initiative, joint patrols in the Straits of Malacca but also tries to give reasons for such situation in this area.

The third part called *International terrorism and separatism* starts with the paper by Robert Borkowski titled *War of civilizations or civilization of war? War on terrorism as world war IV*. It is a well balanced article that describes four waves of terrorism in history and shows rather dark possible future of the world predicting next two wars.

The characteristics of selected elements of modern terrorism written by Sebastian Wojciechowski is a very interesting work reminding that terrorism has numerous aspects and it comprises various shapes and forms and requires complex actions all over the world to make it safer for the future. The article is really worth spending time over it.

Szymon Wudarski and *The new terrorism: specification, evolution and directions of development* again deals with the problem of terrorism and its future development. He stresses that social changes, like increased role of media, forced also changes on terrorists modus operandi and made terrorist incidents bloody shows. He also asks the question if the new terrorism will become a contemporary way of making politics by non-state actors. The question seemed to be curtail for further discussion about the new terrorism.

Next two articles, although separate describe terrorist networks in different countries. Ryszard M. Machnikowski in *Global Islamic terrorist networks (GITNs) in Western Europe in the XXI Century* reviles the details of GITNs in Spain, Holland, Belgium, France and Italy. It is shown in the work how they cooperate, make contacts and prepare their actions. He concludes that they are a considerable threat for the security European societies and should be dealt with decisively and effectively if we do not want to see next acts of severe atrocities. The article by Kacper Rękawek *Global Islamic terrorist networks (GITNs) in the UK* is a continuation of the problem but as the title say in the UK. It also describes the network but talks about the police tries to fight the terrorism. Both pieces of writing are extremely interesting and should be read by anyone interested in terrorist organizations.

Adam Krawczyk in the piece of writing titled *Terrorism and his efficiency for example terrorism in the Jewish-Palestinian conflict 1945–2005* tries to give a very detailed description of the conflict going deeply into reasons for this situation. Describes national Jewish terrorism in Palestine, Jewish fundamentalist terrorism in Israel, Israeli state terrorism, secular Palestinian Terrorism and Palestinian terrorism of Islamic fundamentalists. He concludes with a very important statement that only effective struggle with terrorism consists of proper defining of all its components and simultaneous attempts to its liquidation.

The fourth part of the book is devoted to *European security in the face of 21 century challenges* and is opened by Piotr Mickiewicz and *Poland's attitude towards the international terrorism*. The article clearly states that Poland is not a crucial for the terrorist attack but of course the is a possibility of some kind of cooperation between Polish gangs and international terrorist organization. Special attention should be given to Russian-speaking groups because their collaboration might develop very quickly.

Katarzyna Wardin in *Political, economic, ecological and social consequences of possible terrorist attack in the area of Baltic Sea* describes the results of possible terrorist actions in Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Poland in the four aspects. She stresses that effective countermeasures against the above listed threats are one of the most important issues for the Baltic region countries.

Justyna Bartnicka presents *The phenomenon of private military contractors versus contemporary armed conflicts*. She writes about the problem giving its details and finally showing advantages and disadvantages of Private Military Contractors. The main problem lies in the fact that there are no international regulations in the matter. Although the word can take advantage from a well qualified military service in humanitarian and peace keeping operations.

Sea-crossing long-span bridges as potential targets for terrorists by Krzysztof Szubrycht is a very interesting article showing the danger of long-span bridges if they are to be terrorist goals. It shows how such objects can be used by terrorist to cause a maritime tragedy and held up traffic in very busy passages such as straits. The article give also some examples of past accidents that happened in such areas.

The fifth part of the book touches a very important matter of *The role of media in armed conflicts and crisis situations*. This part begins with a very interesting paper *Media and military intelligence service: some thoughts about the past and the present*, written by a very experienced person Maria Gabriella Pasqualini. Her past experience in many parts of the world enables her to analyze the past and the presence of media and conclude that in modern times we are much more dependant on the media so that they can influence international relations or be the tools, knowing it or not, of a terrible conflict among different ideologies.

Agnieszka Węglińska in her article called *The borderlines of the freedom of speech? -Media ethics in the conflicts of the religious nature*, focuses on dangers of a modern information society and clearly stresses how important it is to keep control over the flow of information as safety of many people may and often depends on it. It is a very interesting piece of writing which makes us aware of some aspects of media not usually taken under consideration by an average receiver.

Marta Studzińska writes about *Symbolic relation between terrorism and the media*. The paper deals with a very delicate problem of media ethics and the author says that thought people should have access to information they also need the opportunity to reflect on it and make their own judgments in stead of relying on what is given to them by the media. It is an interesting piece of writing that should be read by all journalists.

The sixth part of book gives the opportunity for students of University of Lower Silesia to present their opinions and there are two articles one by Justyna Komperda *Security policy of the Nordic countries after the second world war*, and Maciej Lasota *The Bush doctrine in face of the European criticism*. Both works are very interesting and show that young generation is able to make analysis and form their thoughts in an interesting way.

To sum up it must be stressed that the volume is an important contribution to the subject of terrorism in the XXI century. It is a well prepared set of articles showing and viewing terrorism from different points of view and aspects. It is very important to make the society aware of this problem by presenting them as many as possible views on this matter. Someone might say that this subject has worn out and writing about it shows only the same topics in different light, but this light pays a very important role and reviles terrorism in different shades. This book is definitely a valuable work in the matter of international terrorism and can be recommended to anyone interested in this subject. The only difficulty is the fact that the articles are written in English and this may course some inconveniences.