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International Responses to Terrorism: New Initiatives

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International Responses to Terrorism: New Initiatives

Kirkpatrick with Allen Gerson, William D. Rogers, and Daniel Scheffer.

Courtenay Manes

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES TO TERRORISM: NEW INITIATIVES; Edited by Richard H. Ward and Ahmed Galal Ezeldin; Office of International Criminal Justice, University of Illinois, Chicago (1990); ISBN 0-942511-26-3; 152pp. (hardcover).

This book contains eighteen speeches on international terrorism given at a week-long conference on the subject held in January, 1988 in Cairo, Egypt. The national Police Academy of Egypt and the Office of International Criminal Justice at the University of Illinois co-sponsored the conference. Harold E. Smith, Associate Director of the Office of International Criminal Justice, explains in the book's Foreword that the conference "was designed to serve as a forum for the exploration of terrorism as a worldwide phenomenon."

The topics of the various speeches are as diverse as the authors themselves, from "Political Violence in Northern Ireland" to "INTERPOL's Perspective on International Terrorism." In the opening chapter, David E. Long explores terrorism from the United States perspective. He briefly explains the beginnings of the U.S. anti-terrorism policy of the 1980s, identifying its basic elements. For a slightly different perspective, the Honorable Chancellor Samir Nagy presents the legal aspects of combatting international terrorism. Specifically, he outlines several binding legal documents created by the United Nations and non-governmental organizations.

The book's strongest advantages are its diverse selection of speakers and topics and its straightforward approach. Responses to international terrorism are often viewed from a solely Western perspective; here, several authors speak with a distinctly Middle Eastern voice. These authors are better able than their Western colleagues to report on events and steps being taken in their own countries to halt terrorist activities. All the views are presented in an easily understandable manner. Each speech spans only a few pages, offering a basic overview of the subject. Chapter endnotes supply the interested reader with opportunities for further research.

Although the speech topics selected for publication are interesting, information about the speakers themselves is insufficient. A few authors introduce themselves, but a greater number are unrecognizable to one unfamiliar with scholarship on international terrorism. The information presented suggests they are figures of great authority and prestige in their home countries, but this is not confirmed anywhere in the book. Also, because the book simply excerpts from the speeches, topics are dealt with in a cursory fashion. Anyone looking for an in-depth analysis of world reactions to international terrorism would be well-advised to search elsewhere.

Detail is sacrificed to diversity; nevertheless, this compilation of

speeches succeeds in giving the reader a taste of selected topics encompassed in the broad term "international terrorism."

Lisa Berkowitz

LEGAL INSIGHTS TO INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS IN SPAIN; Explore Publications, Los Angeles, CA (1991); \$249.00; ISBN 0-9630929-0-1; 381pp; Appendix, index.

At first glance, this paperback book looks like nothing more than a tremendous directory of Spanish law firms. But this volume provides information for everyone from job seekers to prospective clients to established businesses looking for information on law firms in Spain.

The book is broken down into several sections: Law Firms, Legal and Business Institutions, and Legal and Business Topics. By far the most important section is Law Firms. This section contains much more than basic directory information; it also contains thoughtful information about each firm, such as: what languages are spoken by the firm, what percentage of clients are foreign, and interviews with partners, or top officers in the case of institutions. Because the information was provided directly by the firms, there is more detail for some than for others. Some firms were more eloquent than others in expressing their views on given topics. The type of information provided in these interviews cannot be found anywhere else. The collection of personal views provides invaluable information for job-seekers or the cautious American export company seeking counsel.

The section on Legal and Business Institutions also focuses on the personal interview. An assortment of institutions provide detailed information about the nature of their businesses and their structure.

The final section, Legal and Business Topics, provides the reader with a comprehensive description of specific subjects, also collected through interviews. Here the questions are grouped alphabetically by topic, with several law firms responding. Again, the information is candid.

Explore Publications has taken a novel approach to providing readers with a much needed resource. The attempt to provide the reader with a comprehensive look at the Spanish legal community from a practitioner's view is successful. Well-thought out questions provide the opportunity for Spanish practitioners to express their understanding of the unique manner in which their legal community functions.

Francis Brown

ADAMS, PATRICIA, ODIIOUS DEBTS: LOOSE LENDING, CORRUPTION, AND THE THIRD WORLD'S ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY; Probe International, Earthscan Publications, Ltd. (1991); \$19.95; ISBN 0-919849-16-4; 252pp.

"Human beings do not willingly degrade their environment." Patricia Adams introduces her book with a narrative of the ancient *muang faai*,