

Editor's Note

The *Defence Against Terrorism Review* (DATR), first published in the Spring of 2008, is now one year old. DATR presents with great pride its third issue Spring 2009 in which our readership will again find, we hope, a collection of very valuable articles on extremely interesting subjects by distinguished scholars, professionals and experts from around the world. It goes without saying that terrorism has many faces and DATR addresses in this issue only a few of the types of terrorism that the world community is facing.

In his article on the threat posed by the weapons of mass destruction (WMD), Guy Roberts discusses the important and dangerous challenges NATO faces and he highlights the complex nature of NATO's work in trying to create a 'holistic' deterrence posture. The author also makes some suggestions towards maintaining NATO's ability to combat WMD terrorism.

Relations between staunch allies Pakistan and the United States have since September 11 attacks been deteriorated due to the severe criticisms of the American administration about the reluctance of Pakistani authorities to give all the support they needed in their fight against Al Qaeda, which uses Afghanistan and Pakistan as a sanctuary. Moeed Yusuf argues that once Pakistan's own threat perception and self-defined regional objectives are held constant, it becomes entirely rational for it to avoid complementing the US objectives wholeheartedly. He, therefore, suggests that the United States should change Islamabad's cost-benefit equation by altering the incentive payoffs rather than hoping that the moral undertones of the discourse would somehow lead it to oblige fully.

With the advances in IT technologies, issues pertaining to terrorism and the fight against it are taken to a new and more complex level, namely the cyberspace. Gilbert Ramsay argues that strategies for offsetting the advantages that terrorists may have in the cyberspace do exist. The author suggests that by recognizing the limitations of the Internet as a tool for terrorism, governments, with their ability to shape agendas across the complete spectrum of media, stand a much better chance of countering threats which do emerge from it.

Divine religions or other types of communal spiritual beliefs and acts of terrorism can hardly have anything in common. Andreas Armbrorst provides a conceptual and descriptive clarification of the notion of killing in the name of a religion by presenting a variety of definitional features. The author argues that as part of the efforts of clerics and jurists over the centuries to adjust Islamic international law to social-political realities of their time in a sophisticated manner, today's reformists seek for a non-hostile interpretation of jihad.

Because terrorism has become truly global, the link between terrorism and how it changes the foreign policy framework of the states gains much currency. İtir Toksöz studies the concept of threat in international politics and deliberates on the types, as well as the old and new usages, of the term of instability. The author argues that without a good understanding of what is domestic and what is international concerning threat perceptions, the role of the military in foreign policy making in the post-Cold War era cannot be fully understood.

It is a well know fact that while states must be successful in their efforts to protect their citizens and their strategic assets at all times, terrorists need to be successful only once. Hence, intelligence and security services work hard to thwart any such attempts. Gordon Woo argues that terrorist targeting, attack mode and multiplicity can be analyzed, and the prioritization of

targets for attack and defense can be assessed according to criteria of societal criticality, attack vulnerability, and terrorist capability. The author suggests measures to mitigate and avoid terrorism risk by adopting a risk-informed approach to counterterrorism resource allocation.

DATR always welcomes contributions from experts, civil and military officers as well as academics who have been involved, in one way or another, in defence against terrorism, which has become not just a professional undertaking of only a number of individuals in various capacities, but rather an overarching duty of all the noble members of the world's peace loving communities. There is no other way out, but to bring together the efforts of all the concerned body of intellectuals against the terrorism predicament, hopefully, sooner rather than later.

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Editor-in-Chief