

cutting the fuse the explosion of global suicide terrorism and how to stop it hardcover 2010 author robert a pape james k feldman

cutting the fuse the explosion of global suicide terrorism and how to stop it hardcover 2010 author robert a pape james k feldman is a seminal work that examines the alarming rise of suicide terrorism worldwide and proposes strategic measures to curb this deadly tactic. Authored by Robert A. Pape and James K. Feldman, the book offers an in-depth analysis of the socio-political factors driving suicide terrorism, supported by extensive data and case studies. This article delves into the core themes and findings of the 2010 hardcover edition, highlighting the key arguments and solutions presented by the authors. Readers will gain insights into the nature of global suicide terrorism, the motivations behind it, and the practical approaches to effectively combat it. The discussion also covers the impact of counterterrorism policies and the importance of addressing underlying grievances. The following sections provide a detailed overview of the book's content, structured for clarity and comprehensive understanding.

- The Rise and Nature of Global Suicide Terrorism
- Motivations Behind Suicide Terrorism
- Strategies for Stopping Suicide Terrorism
- Impact of Counterterrorism Policies
- Case Studies and Empirical Evidence

The Rise and Nature of Global Suicide Terrorism

The phenomenon of suicide terrorism has escalated dramatically in recent decades, becoming a critical security challenge worldwide. In *cutting the fuse the explosion of global suicide terrorism and how to stop it hardcover 2010 author robert a pape james k feldman*, the authors trace this surge to specific political and strategic contexts. Unlike traditional terrorism, suicide terrorism involves attackers sacrificing their lives to inflict maximum damage and garner political attention. The book categorizes suicide terrorism as a deliberate tactic used by certain groups to coerce governments through fear and destruction.

Historical Development

The authors document how suicide terrorism evolved from isolated incidents to a widespread tactic employed by various organizations across different regions. The escalation is linked to regional conflicts, particularly in the Middle East, South Asia, and

parts of Africa. The 1980s marked the beginning of this trend, with a significant increase observed after the 1990s.

Characteristics of Suicide Terrorism

Suicide attacks are characterized by their high lethality, unpredictability, and psychological impact on populations and governments. The book highlights that these attacks often target civilians, military personnel, and symbolic infrastructures to maximize political effects. The willingness of perpetrators to die for their cause makes countermeasures complex and necessitates a nuanced understanding of their motivations and operational methods.

Motivations Behind Suicide Terrorism

The core argument in *cutting the fuse the explosion of global suicide terrorism and how to stop it hardcover 2010* author robert a pape james k feldman is that suicide terrorism is primarily driven by political objectives rather than religious extremism alone. The authors analyze data indicating that territorial occupation and foreign military presence are key catalysts for suicide attacks.

Political Grievances and Territorial Occupation

The book emphasizes that groups resort to suicide terrorism mainly as a response to perceived occupation or control by foreign powers. This motivation is distinct from purely ideological or religious causes and frames suicide terrorism as a strategic tool to compel withdrawal or policy changes.

Recruitment and Radicalization

Recruitment into suicide terrorist organizations is influenced by social networks, ideological indoctrination, and personal experiences of conflict. Pape and Feldman detail how groups capitalize on local grievances and societal conditions to motivate individuals to sacrifice their lives for the collective political cause.

Strategies for Stopping Suicide Terrorism

The book proposes that effective counterterrorism strategies must address the root political causes rather than solely focusing on military or security responses. *cutting the fuse the explosion of global suicide terrorism and how to stop it hardcover 2010* author robert a pape james k feldman advocates for a combination of political negotiation, withdrawal of occupying forces, and policies that reduce grievances to dismantle the support base for suicide terrorism.

Political Solutions and Diplomatic Engagement

One of the key recommendations is to engage in meaningful political dialogue and conflict resolution efforts that address the demands of affected populations. The authors argue that coercive military tactics alone often exacerbate the problem, while political concessions can significantly reduce suicide terrorism incidents.

Security and Intelligence Measures

While political solutions are central, the book acknowledges the necessity of robust intelligence, counterterrorism operations, and community policing to prevent attacks and disrupt terrorist networks. However, these measures must be balanced with respect for human rights to avoid alienating populations.

Key Elements of Effective Counterterrorism

- Withdrawal of occupying or foreign military forces from contested territories
- Implementation of political reforms to address grievances
- Promotion of economic development and social integration
- Enhancement of intelligence gathering and security coordination
- Engagement with community leaders to counter radicalization

Impact of Counterterrorism Policies

The authors critically assess various counterterrorism policies implemented worldwide and their effectiveness in curbing suicide terrorism. The analysis reveals that militarized responses without accompanying political solutions tend to increase the frequency and intensity of suicide attacks.

Case for Political Engagement Over Military Force

The evidence presented in the book shows that suicide terrorism declines most significantly when occupying powers withdraw and political negotiations take place. Conversely, escalations in military action often provoke retaliatory suicide attacks, creating a cycle of violence.

Unintended Consequences of Counterterrorism

Counterterrorism policies that rely heavily on repression, mass arrests, or indiscriminate violence can undermine local support for governments and inadvertently fuel terrorist recruitment. Pape and Feldman warn against strategies that fail to differentiate between militants and the wider community.

Case Studies and Empirical Evidence

cutting the fuse the explosion of global suicide terrorism and how to stop it hardcover 2010
author robert a pape james k feldman is grounded in comprehensive empirical research, including case studies from regions such as Palestine, Sri Lanka, Lebanon, and Chechnya. These case studies illustrate the book's arguments regarding the causes and solutions to suicide terrorism.

Palestinian Suicide Terrorism

The Palestinian case exemplifies how foreign military occupation and political disputes over territory are central to the rise of suicide terrorism. The book details how ceasefires and political agreements correspond with reductions in attacks.

Sri Lankan Civil War

The Tamil Tigers' use of suicide attacks in Sri Lanka is analyzed as a strategy linked to ethnic conflict and political exclusion. The eventual military defeat of the group also demonstrates the limits of purely security-based solutions.

Lessons from Comparative Analysis

The comparative approach in the book highlights that suicide terrorism is not confined to any one religion or culture but is instead a tactic employed in diverse political struggles. This reinforces the importance of context-specific political strategies to effectively counter this threat.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main thesis of 'Cutting the Fuse: The Explosion of Global Suicide Terrorism and How to Stop It'?

'Cutting the Fuse' argues that suicide terrorism is primarily a strategic tool used by nationalist groups to coerce democracies into withdrawing military forces from their territories. The book emphasizes the importance of addressing the root causes, particularly foreign military occupation, to effectively stop suicide terrorism.

Who are the authors of 'Cutting the Fuse' and what are their backgrounds?

The book is authored by Robert A. Pape and James K. Feldman. Robert A. Pape is a political scientist known for his research on terrorism and security studies, while James K. Feldman is a scholar specializing in political violence and terrorism.

What methodology do the authors use to study suicide terrorism in the book?

The authors use a comprehensive data-driven approach, analyzing a global database of suicide terrorist attacks to identify patterns, motivations, and strategies behind these attacks. They combine qualitative case studies with quantitative data analysis.

According to the book, what is the primary cause of suicide terrorism?

The book identifies foreign military occupation of a nationalist group's homeland as the primary cause of suicide terrorism, rather than religious or ideological extremism alone.

How does 'Cutting the Fuse' suggest democracies can effectively reduce suicide terrorism?

The book suggests that democracies can reduce suicide terrorism by ending military occupations in the homelands of nationalist groups, thereby removing the main grievance that fuels such attacks.

What role does religion play in suicide terrorism according to 'Cutting the Fuse'?

While religion may be used as a justification by some groups, the authors argue that religion is not the primary cause of suicide terrorism; instead, political and nationalist motivations related to occupation are more significant.

Does the book discuss any policy recommendations for governments dealing with suicide terrorism?

Yes, 'Cutting the Fuse' recommends that governments reconsider military strategies that involve occupation and focus on diplomatic and political solutions that address the underlying nationalist grievances.

How was 'Cutting the Fuse' received by the academic and policy communities?

The book was widely praised for its empirical approach and fresh perspective on suicide terrorism, influencing both academic discourse and policy debates on counterterrorism strategies.

Can 'Cutting the Fuse' be applied to understanding contemporary terrorism threats?

Yes, although published in 2010, its framework for analyzing suicide terrorism through the lens of occupation and nationalist grievances remains relevant for understanding and addressing contemporary terrorism threats.

Where can one purchase or find 'Cutting the Fuse: The Explosion of Global Suicide Terrorism and How to Stop It' hardcover edition?

The hardcover edition can be purchased through major book retailers such as Amazon,

Barnes & Noble, or found in university libraries and online academic resources.

Additional Resources

1. *Cutting the Fuse: The Explosion of Global Suicide Terrorism and How to Stop It* by Robert A. Pape and James K. Feldman

This seminal book analyzes the rise of suicide terrorism worldwide and explores the political motivations behind it. Pape and Feldman argue that suicide terrorism is primarily a strategic tool used to compel democracies to withdraw military forces from territories that terrorists consider their homeland. The authors propose practical policy measures to reduce and ultimately stop suicide terrorism by addressing its root causes.

2. *Inside Terrorism* by Bruce Hoffman

Bruce Hoffman provides an in-depth look at the history, motivations, and tactics of terrorist groups around the globe. The book covers the evolution of terrorism, including suicide terrorism, and offers insight into how governments and societies can respond effectively. Hoffman's analysis is grounded in extensive research and case studies.

3. *The Age of Sacred Terror: Radical Islam's War Against America* by Daniel Benjamin and Steven Simon

This book examines the rise of radical Islamic terrorism post-9/11, focusing on the ideological and strategic elements driving groups like Al-Qaeda. The authors discuss the motivations behind suicide attacks and the broader implications for U.S. foreign policy. Their analysis combines historical context with policy recommendations to counter terrorism.

4. *Suicide Terrorism* by Ami Pedahzur

Ami Pedahzur explores the phenomenon of suicide terrorism, investigating its origins, development, and impact worldwide. The book offers a comprehensive examination of the psychological, social, and political factors that lead individuals to engage in suicide attacks. Pedahzur also evaluates counterterrorism strategies aimed at preventing such attacks.

5. *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence* by Mark Juergensmeyer

This work delves into the role of religion in motivating terrorist violence, including suicide terrorism. Juergensmeyer analyzes various religious extremist groups and the ways their beliefs fuel violence in pursuit of sacred goals. The book provides a nuanced understanding of how religious ideologies intersect with terrorism and conflict resolution.

6. *Why Terrorism Works: Understanding the Threat, Responding to the Challenge* by Alan B. Krueger

Krueger investigates the effectiveness of terrorism, including suicide attacks, in achieving political objectives. Using empirical data, he assesses the strategies terrorists use and the responses that can mitigate their impact. The book offers evidence-based policy recommendations to reduce terrorism's appeal and effectiveness.

7. *The Logic of Suicide Terrorism* by Robert A. Pape

In this focused study, Pape presents his influential theory that suicide terrorism is a rational strategy aimed at coercing democracies. He backs his argument with extensive data on suicide attacks and discusses the implications for counterterrorism policy. The book is a critical resource for understanding the motivations behind suicide terrorism.

8. *Countering Suicide Terrorism: An International Conference Report* edited by Yonah Alexander

This collection of essays from experts around the world discusses various approaches to preventing and responding to suicide terrorism. The book covers military, intelligence, political, and social strategies to combat this threat. It provides a multidisciplinary perspective on one of the most challenging aspects of modern terrorism.

9. *The Psychology of Terrorism* edited by John Horgan

This edited volume brings together research on the psychological underpinnings of terrorism, including the factors that drive individuals to commit suicide attacks. The contributors examine motivation, recruitment, and the impact of terrorism on societies. The book offers valuable insights for developing effective counterterrorism policies.

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