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Editorial

In one way or another, all the contributions to this issue of the *Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism* deal with the emergence and impact of modern terrorism. Together, they form a collection offering a valuable range of perspectives on the central issues – internal cultural and ethnic conditions leading to the development of terrorism, intelligence and security responses, the impact on policing and legislation, and the effectiveness of the responses of western societies to these issues. This issue also introduces a new section, Forum, which offers readers analysis, commentary and debate on specific topics related to current practices and concepts in the areas covered by the Journal.

In the first article, Richards takes as his starting point the 7 July 2005 London bombings to develop the argument that “a complex and explosive security situation has evolved in Pakistan which acts as a seedbed for an extremist, violent, Islamist politics” (p. 11) in the West. He traces the emergence of the state of Pakistan, and analyses the factors that have led to a culture of political violence and linkages with Al Qaeda. He points out that western countries need to develop much greater awareness of the impact of contacts between Pakistan and extremist Islamist groups in apparently integrated communities in the West.

Punch and Cramphorn continue the theme of the shock of unanticipated “attacks from within” (p. 38) in western countries. Their discussion focuses on events leading to and surrounding the murder of Theo van Gogh in the Netherlands in 2004. The article provides extensive detail drawn from a number of sources of how the ‘shift to the right’ in Dutch society arose from such incidents and has exacerbated the radicalisation of Islamic and other extremists, raised by immigrant parents, but apparently well adapted into the Dutch culture. Their account raises a number of pressing and critical questions about the role of internal policing and security. They conclude by offering an analysis of what factors in events such as the murder of van Gogh should now be of major concern.

Turning from Europe to Australia, Koschade provides a historical account of the history of terrorism in this country. His article aims to fill a gap in the existing literature which, he argues, is currently fragmented, and to provide a foundation for thinking about the contexts of terrorism history within Australia. His framework consists of identifying incidents of international terrorism, domestic terrorism, and 21st century Islamic terrorism and analysing the impact they have had on Australian society. He argues that considerable further research is needed that applies a range of interdisciplinary, methodologies using quantitative and qualitative
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analysis in order that terrorism in Australia can be better understood, explained and predicted.

The inaugural Forum contribution is presented by Williams. Based on a paper he delivered at the Australian National University, it outlines existing Commonwealth Government legislation and the reasons for its introduction in recent years. Williams argues that, “despite the civil libertarian and legal arguments, what usually gets left out of the public debate is the security case for anti-terrorism legislation” (p.82), an issue he takes up in the latter part of the discussion. One of his closing points is that “there need to be adequate safeguards so that the average citizen feels that his or her rights will be adequately protected, no matter what their ethnic or religious background” (p. 98).

The final section in this issue offers readers reviews of three recent book publications. Two of these reviews, Intelligence in war: Knowledge of the enemy from Napoleon to Al-Qaeda by John Keegan (2004), and The Palestine-Israeli conflict: A beginner’s guide by Dan Cohn-Sherbok and Dawoud El-Alami (2002) are written by Cowan. Following these is a review by Wastell of Expert political judgment: How good is it? How can we know? authored by Tetlock (2005). As usual we welcome feedback and suggestions from readers on the contributions that make up this April issue of the journal.

Anne Burns
Chair of the Editorial Committee