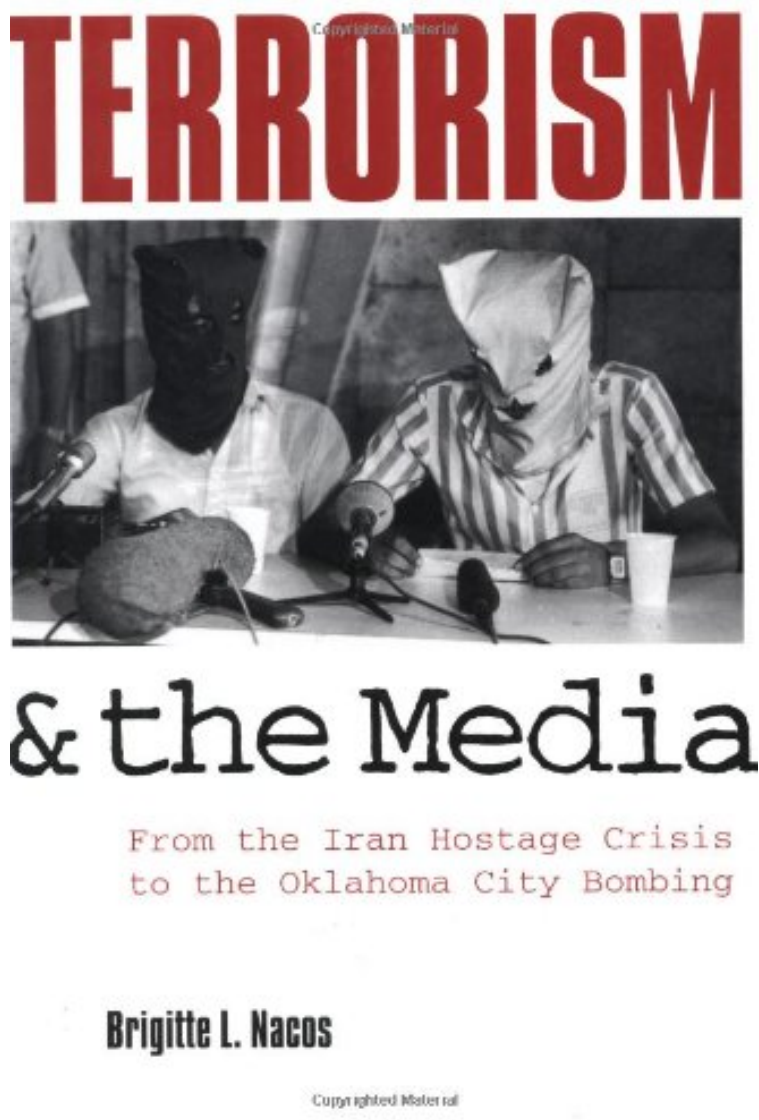


Terrorism and the Media

Brigitte Lebens Nacos

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Brigitte Lebens Nacos : Terrorism and the Media before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Terrorism and the Media:

0 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting topic By Nazanine This book is very helpful in determining how the US Media portrays terrorist activities and the countries those terrorists represent. A very helpful book for those studying racism towards "terrorist nations" and how the USA (especially the media) views them and how that view affects the USA population.

The televised images from the September 11 attacks exemplified how terrorists exploit the news media to get attention, spread fear and anxiety, and expose the weaknesses of the American superpower. September 11 was the culmination of decades of anti-American terrorism that, until the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, had not been felt on American soil. This book examines the response of the U.S. media, public, and decision makers to major acts of anti-American terrorism during the period from 1979-1994. Focusing on events abroad, such as the Iranian hostage crisis and the downing of Pan Am Flight 103, Nacos describes how terrorists successfully manipulate the linkages between the news media, public opinion, and presidential decision making through the staging of violent spectacles. A preface examines the dilemmas faced by the government and media in response to domestic terrorism perpetrated by Americans against Americans in 1995. Nacos argues that government acquiescence to mass-media pressure in the wake of the Oklahoma City Bombing, as well as the media's agonizing decision to publish the Unabomber's 35,000-word manifesto, represented a victory for terrorism that could only encourage more terrorism.

From Publishers Weekly
Nacos's (*The Press, Presidents, and Crises*) modest study explores how the news media, public opinion and presidential decision-making in the U.S. have responded to major acts of anti-American terrorism during the past 15 years. With the exception of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the most dramatic terrorist strikes have been staged outside the U.S. against American citizens by what the author calls "Mid-Eastern groups." These include the Iranian hostage crisis of 1979-81, the ordeal of hostages in Lebanon in the '80s and early '90s and the downing of Pan Am Flight 103. Nacos's argument—that terrorists seek attention through news coverage, and that their propaganda successes have been enhanced by television—seems almost too obvious to need utterance; likewise her point that media coverage for terrorists is "merely the means to the more important end of affecting the general public and decision makers." Her conclusion seems to be that decision-makers need to better understand their vulnerability to media manipulation. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal
Nacos (political science, Columbia Univ.) is the author of *The Press, Presidents, and Crisis* (Columbia Univ. Pr., 1990). In this volume, she argues that terrorist organizations are sensitive to the impact of their violence on American public opinion and presidential decision-making. That sensitivity, according to Nacos, may explain the increasing incidence of international terrorism in the United States in general and the World Trade Center bombing in particular. is Scholarly and well written, her analysis will be informative for specialists on terrorism and on the media and for other informed readers. William L. Waugh Jr., Georgia State Univ., Atlanta Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. Her book is a proverbial breath of fresh air blown into the stuffy catacombs where U.S. policy on this subject is made. (The Friday of Defense Literature)