

IN THIS ISSUE

To put an optimistic face on what is likely to be a long and difficult process, 1988 may yet come to be remembered as "the year the wars ended." At the very least it can be said that the process has begun — in Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf, Angola and Namibia, Cambodia, and Central America. While the termination of these major wars would be a significant and welcome accomplishment, it would not immediately usher in a new era of peace. Many smaller conflicts continue to rage in virtually every region of the world. In these 'small wars,' terrorism continues to manifest itself as a dominant conflict form. It provides the central theme of the essays in this issue.

Even a comprehensive and long-lasting resolution of the Gulf War is unlikely to put a stop to terrorism emanating from the Middle East, where it is a tactic of choice both for states and for non-state actors. Syrian involvement in terrorism was highlighted by the Hindawi case in 1986, but as Diane Pritchett demonstrates, Syrian use of terrorism goes back much earlier. Taking the period 1971-77 as a sample, she suggests that terrorism plays a rational role in Syrian foreign policy as it relates to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Considerable attention has been devoted recently to allegations of terrorist involvement in narcotics trafficking, often referred to as 'narcoterrorism.' While acknowledging that the 'drug-terrorism nexus' is important, Grant Wardlaw takes issue with the simplistic notions arising from the use of such emotive catchwords which, he argues, precludes proper analysis of the problem. He calls for a more sophisticated intelligence effort to increase knowledge of the linkages and to assess their significance.

As Patrick James and Jesse Goldstaub point out, multinational corporations increasingly have become the targets of terrorist attacks. The cost of protecting businesses from attack has increased with the escalating threat. The authors review the policy options open to these corporations and come down in favour of adequate corporate intelligence — which would form the basis for proactive counter-terrorist measures — and increased multi-disciplinary research which would recognize such corporations as major non-state actors in global politics and in the struggle against terrorism.

Zeev Ivianski's essay is a welcome antidote to the tendency, particularly in the media, to treat terrorism as only a recent phenomenon and each action as a discrete event with no relationship to the past. Ivianski

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takes the reader back to the late 19th century in search of the source of inspiration for revolutionary terrorism and finds it in the curious alliance of Bakunin and Nechayev. Pointing to the predominance of Bakunin's thought in *The Catechism of a Revolutionary* and thus dismissing the controversy over the document's genesis, Ivianski asserts that the importance of the relationship of the two men lies in Nechayev's application of Bakunin's ideas. It was this application of the technique of revolutionary activity that influenced the Russian underground and continues to produce echoes in contemporary revolutionary movements.

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David Charters
Executive Editor