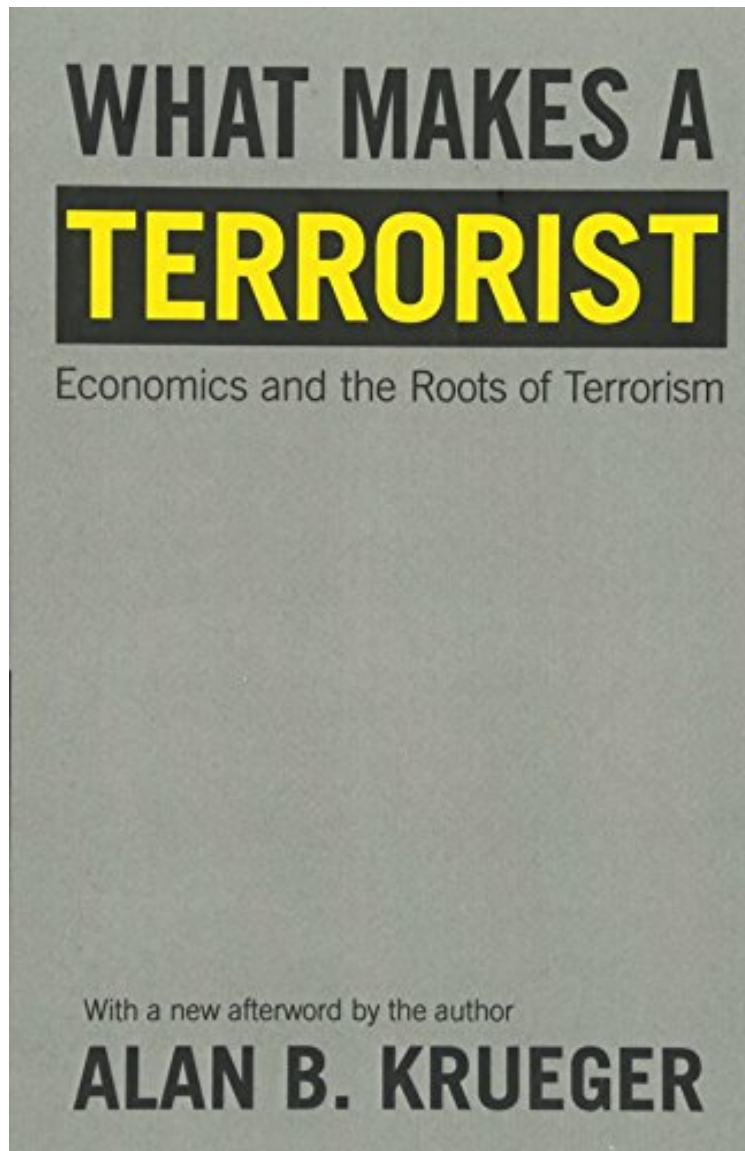


What Makes a Terrorist: Economics and the Roots of Terrorism

Alan B. Krueger

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Alan B. Krueger : What Makes a Terrorist: Economics and the Roots of Terrorism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Makes a Terrorist: Economics and the Roots of Terrorism:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Money worth spendBy ArringtonOur globally-besieged world we know and live in today has become more than a troubled-prone environment. The act of terrorism to somextent had rendered us mentally paralyzed -in this vein we have become creatures of fears. As a result, allowing hatred to

overshadow the beauty and uniqueness of love. Thus, if we want to free ourselves from such intrabondage, it is only prudent enough that we understand the rudiments of terrorism that appears to rub us of our predilections to travel and enjoy our inalienable rights given to us by the omnipotent father. And there's no better place to start than reading Krueger's book that is succinct and easy to read and understand. 16 of 19 people found the following review helpful.

Dismal Science: The Economics of Terrorism By Omer Belsky

In a series of three lectures, economist Alan Krueger offers 2 major insights on terrorism, one of them well known but oft forgotten, and the other somewhat more surprising. He then goes on to investigate various consequences of terrorism. Ultimately, his study leaves most of the truly difficult questions of terrorism unanswered - but given the enormity of the challenge, that is not really surprising. Krueger opens by demolishing a myth that should have died a long time ago - that terrorism is caused by economic depravity. It turns out that there is no statistical correlation between either poverty or lack of education and terrorism. Krueger points out that we tend to analogize terrorism to property crime, of which the poor are guiltier than the rich. But that is the wrong view - terrorism should be seen as the equivalent of voting - an activity carried out by the educated and well informed, not by the hungry and rather apolitical masses. In the second chapter, Krueger explores other issues relating to terrorism. His main conclusion is that terrorism is mostly a local issue: long range attacks such as 9/11 and 7/7 are the exception rather than the rule. Terrorism often works across religious lines: the targets of terrorist attacks are overwhelmingly members of another religion. But the particular religion doesn't matter: Islamic terrorists are no more widespread than other terrorists. Perhaps most significantly, Krueger finds that terrorists usually come from countries with poor civil and political liberties. The final lecture deals with the consequences of terrorism. Krueger presents two views of terror's economic effects: That it has a big, lasting effect, or that it is only a temporary thing. Overall, Krueger comes out in favor of the latter, although he concedes that there are good counter arguments. I think there are a lot of questions that are left unanswered in Krueger's study. First, Krueger does not differentiate his various terrorists. As I pointed out earlier, the ones involved in long range attacks like 9/11 are the exception, rather than the rule. Is the analysis Krueger offers for terrorists in general also relevant for al-Qaeda type terrorists? If terrorism is a world wide phenomenon, why are the majority of the terrorist attacks against US and Western targets Muslim or Arab in origin? More generally, what determines what target will a terrorist choose? Conceivably, North Koreans living under a dictatorship have legitimate grievances against the US for occupying their country - and yet North Korean terrorists are not attacking the US. The same could be said for Latin American and other East Asian countries. As Krueger points out, Terrorism is a tactic, not an enemy. The challenge of extreme Islam may be a unique danger even if it has no monopoly on the use of terrorism. And the alleged solution - promoting civil liberties and political rights in states that hate the West - may be worse than the disease, as we are learning, to our sorrow, from the Iraq fiasco.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars

By Pwas great

Many popular ideas about terrorists and why they seek to harm us are fueled by falsehoods and misinformation. Leading politicians and scholars have argued that poverty and lack of education breed terrorism, despite the wealth of evidence showing that most terrorists come from middle-class, and often college-educated, backgrounds. In *What Makes a Terrorist*, Alan Krueger argues that if we are to correctly assess the root causes of terrorism and successfully address the threat, we must think more like economists do. Krueger is an influential economist who has applied rigorous statistical analysis to a range of tough issues, from the minimum wage and education to the occurrence of hate crimes. In this book, he explains why our tactics in the fight against terrorism must be based on more than anecdote and speculation. Krueger closely examines the factors that motivate individuals to participate in terrorism, drawing inferences from terrorists' own backgrounds and the economic, social, and political conditions in the societies from which they come. He describes which countries are the most likely breeding grounds for terrorists, and which ones are most likely to be their targets. Krueger addresses the economic and psychological consequences of terrorism. He puts the terrorist threat squarely into perspective, revealing how our nation's sizeable economy is diverse and resilient enough to withstand the comparatively limited effects of most terrorist strikes. And he calls on the media to be more responsible in reporting on terrorism. *What Makes a Terrorist* brings needed clarity to one of the greatest challenges of our time.