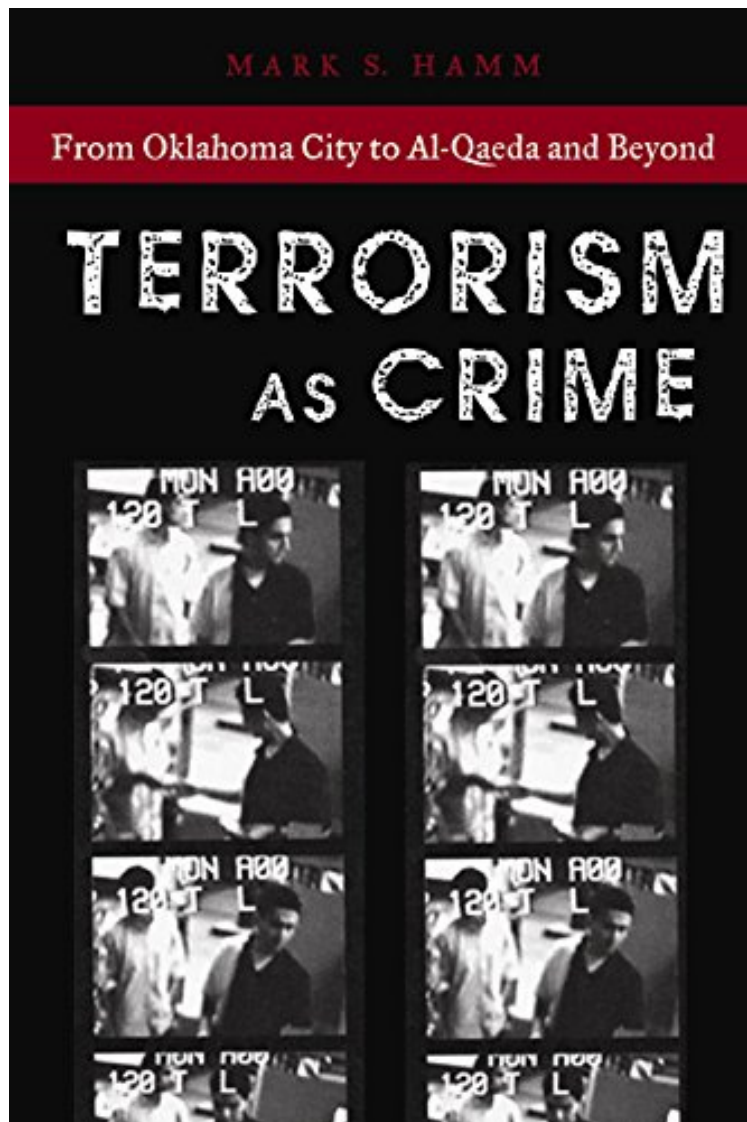


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Mark S. Hamm

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#1703185 in Books Mark Hamm 2007-03-01 2007-03-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .71 x 6.00l, .89 #File Name: 0814736963271 pages Terrorism As Crime From Oklahoma City to Al Qaeda and Beyond | File size: 44.Mb

Mark S. Hamm : **Terrorism As Crime: From Oklahoma City to Al-Qaeda and Beyond (Alternative Criminology)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Terrorism As Crime: From Oklahoma City to Al-Qaeda and Beyond (Alternative Criminology):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Useful By Rodger Shepherd The author's declared goal of this book is to examine terrorist's involvement in certain kinds of crimes and describe law enforcement's opportunities to detect and prevent them. I found this expectation satisfied. After a very good introductory chapter (available on line) the author essentially presents a series of case histories of domestic and foreign terrorist groups and individuals. These do serve to illustrate the author's points and make the book a worthwhile addition to the current literature on terrorism. In the introductory chapter the author emphasises the usefulness of "routine activity perspective" and "social learning theory" in analysing criminal activity. These criminological approaches were new to me, and I would have appreciated more discussion of them and more explicit connections between these approaches and the case studies.

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Unsound Conclusions...BART did it. By E. Woods Unsound Conclusions...BART did it. The author bases his conclusions on extensive research including two primary sources, a 91 page, two-week FBI debriefing (called an FD-302) of Richard Lee Guthrie and Guthrie's 315 page handwritten story (manuscript) entitled "The Taunting Bandits," written between his arrest in January and his suicide in July 1996. Neither of these documents support the author's conclusions...to the contrary...they refute them. The author states, "In all, the ARA (Aryan Republican Army) robbed twenty-two banks, netting some \$500,000. This money was used to support a series of terrorist attacks that included armored truck heists, sabotaging public utilities, derailing trains, attempted assassinations, and bombings." In addition, "While the ARA got away with twenty-two bank robberies, at least that many were prevented through routine activities." The author then segues into an academically convoluted "social learning theory." (Terrorism As Crime; Introduction, p.4) Had the author seriously reviewed his research material he could not have come to these conclusions. It wasn't \$500,000 but half that amount and most of it was used to sustain their activities; vehicles, gas, rent, food, hotels, switch cars, etc. Traveling around the Midwest as they did to locate and case banks was time-consuming and expensive, and Guthrie repeatedly complained in his manuscript about their lack of funds ("At this point in time, the company's funds were rapidly decreasing," "However, there was one problem-money," "The amount plundered was chump change..." {Manuscript, p.168, p.191, p.212 and numerous other references}). A limited amount of funds (around three thousand dollars) was provided to white supremacist Mark Thomas (who was convicted in the FBI's "Bombrob" case) along with those Thomas supplied to help support Guthrie and Langan. The author makes a definitive statement that "this money was used to support a series of terrorists attacks." This is false and based on nothing factual that the author could produce. Guthrie and Peter Langan (coined in the media as the Midwest Bank Bandits) never committed any terrorist acts. They robbed banks, and the most they did was plan and conduct surveillances of armored trucks (November 1993 in Arkansas, February/March 1995 in Arizona, July 1995 in Ohio). They only talked and theorized about sabotaging public utilities and disrupting rail and transportation. Their "bombs" were hoax devices to thwart police response after a bank robbery. There was never any attempted assassination of any public figure. Guthrie did threaten then President Clinton, for which the U.S. Secret Service had issued a warrant. Had the author stated instead that ARA "contemplated" terrorist's attacks, he would have at least been much closer to the actual facts, and the truth. For the author to state "While the ARA got away with twenty-two bank robberies, at least that many were prevented through routine activities," means that he either failed to understand or intentionally ignored the key element of Guthrie's bank robbery success. (Actually, as the author should have learned, three of the robberies were done not as ARA, but by Guthrie alone because he was short on cash and his K-Mart scams were time consuming and not that profitable.) Guthrie devoted an entire chapter and made dozens of references to his pet principle, BART, described by Guthrie himself as "Basic Armed Resistance Tactics. It's an SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for conducting Guerrilla operations against banks," and, "In essence, BART isn't an art, but moreover, it's a science of cunning methods used to acquire capital from banks" (Manuscript, p.35). Guthrie even created and used a checklist, a "BART flow chart" to rank whether prospective banks were viable targets. BART included considerations of the bank's appearance, its parking lot, number of employees, the drop (or switch) car purchased with cash and false identification, egress route, police frequency list, size of the metropolitan area, traffic flow, hoax device in the bank, need for hoax device in the drop car, and the drop zone location (where the switch car would be abandoned for their "Blitzenvagen," their van and mobile base of operations.) (The author also ignored Guthrie's extensive description of "BRAT: Basic Resistance Armored Transport" techniques for planning armored car robberies.) Guthrie and Langan did the planning and would sometimes spend weeks selecting and casing primary and secondary targets. They would cancel an "operation" with the slightest indication of potential problems. Guthrie chronicled all the bank robberies in his manuscript. The reasons they would abort a robbery had everything to do with happenstance and nothing regarding the author's flawed theory that "robberies were thwarted, averted, and otherwise prevented through the routine activities of public safeguards--bank security measures, police surveillance, and citizen involvement." According to Guthrie's own account, and his extensive debriefing by the FBI, if there was heavier than expected traffic in the area, more customers than they anticipated, unexpected activity at the bank, any unusual or nearby police activity heard on their police scanner (Guthrie was meticulous in selecting areas where he could monitor police frequencies...they would even listen to the scanner as they made their way out of the city as police responded with the bomb squad to deal with the hoax bomb devices they would always leave at the bank and in the getaway vehicle), or if Guthrie or Langan felt uncomfortable about virtually anything, they would abandon the robbery. By

claiming that "public safeguards" had anything to do with Guthrie's and Langan's bank robbery activity ignores the primary source material and at best only offers erroneous speculation. The author's inaccurate characterization of Guthrie, Langan and ARA casts doubt on any other conclusions reached regarding his analysis of terrorists activities. If it was that easy for the author to misrepresent the basic facts of Guthrie's activities, then all his conclusions are suspect. For more details regarding the author's questionable analysis and reporting concerning ARA, Guthrie and Langan, please see the .com, 1-Star book review of In Bad Company. 2 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Left Wing Bias Abounds By A Customer The author gives the impression that the "right wing" has a monopoly on domestic terrorism. But what of ELF (eco-terrorists active today)? What of the Symbionese Liberation Army (armed with machine guns, kidnapped Patty Hearst, robbed banks)? What of the Weather Underground who plotted to blow up the Pentagon...? The other giveaway to his political bias is his sensationalistic (and inaccurate) description of the MAC-10. "Once converted to a machine gun, the MAC-10 was one of the most gruesome weapons ever made." The MAC-10 was originally designed as a submachine gun intended as a sidearm for tank crews in the US Army. Its designer, George Ingram, hoped the weapon's compact size would make it a good replacement for the M-3 "grease gun" then in the US inventory. As it turned out, the DOD abandoned submachine guns in favor of the M16 assault rifle, except for special forces groups. The MAC-10 is no more deadly than a Thompson submachine gun "the Tommy gun", a British Sten, or an UZI, or a 12 gauge shotgun for that matter. The Thompson and the Sten have each killed far more people than the MAC-10. Thank Hollywood and the left for the MAC's dark reputation.

Car bombing, suicide bombing, abduction, smuggling, homicide, and hijacking are all profoundly criminal acts. In *Terrorism as Crime* Mark S. Hamm presents an understanding of terrorism from a criminological point of view, arguing that the most successful way to understand, detect, prosecute and deter these acts is to use conventional criminal investigation methods. Whether in Oklahoma City or London, *Terrorism as Crime* demonstrates that criminal activity is the lifeblood of terrorist groups and that there are simple common denominators at work that can remove the mystery surrounding many of these terrorist groups. Once understood the vulnerabilities of these organizations can be exposed. This important volume focuses in on six case studies of crimes committed by jihad and domestic right wing groups, including biographies of more than two dozen terrorists along with descriptions of their organizations, strategies, and terrorist plots. *Terrorism as Crime* offers an original and significant framework for explaining international and domestic terrorism, as well as how future acts might be detected or exposed.

Mark Hamm's *Terrorism as Crime* deals with the problem of terrorism through a criminological lens, and it does so with skill and effectiveness. -Brian Forst, *Theoretical Criminology* As a recognized expert in the field, Hamm is eminently qualified to prepare this text on the subject of terrorism from the criminal law perspective. . . . The text is written in a clear, lively manner. -Choice [Provides] the first detailed account of how crime provides logistical support for terrorist strikes. By blending the study of terrorism and criminology, Hamm offers the possibility of detecting and stopping terrorism through the pursuit of conventional methods of criminal investigation. -Gary LaFree, Director, START, National Center for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism University of Maryland Department of Criminology/Democracy Read this book to understand the important nexus between terrorism and crime! This cutting edge analysis suggests a new approach to defeat the terrorist threat to the United States. -Marc Sageman, author of *Understanding Terror Networks* Hamm's clear writing style, careful research and theoretical insights promise to make this a classic in criminology. -William J. Chambliss, author of *Power, Politics, and Crime* Drawing on six case studies of terrorist attacks by radical Islamists and right-wing racists, Hamm writes that American counterterrorist agencies have neglected some basic insights from scholarly criminology. -The Chronicle of Higher Education About the Author Mark S. Hamm is a former prison warden from Arizona and currently Professor of Criminology at Indiana State University and a Senior Research Fellow at the Terrorism Center, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, The City University of New York. His books include *Terrorism as Crime: From Oklahoma City to Al-Qaeda and Beyond* (NYU Press, 2007), and *In Bad Company: America's Terrorist Underground*. He is the recipient of the Frederick Milton Thrasher Award for Outstanding Gang Scholarship, and the Critical Criminologist of the Year Award from the American Society of Criminology.