Terrorists, Victims and Society: Psychological Perspectives on Terrorism and its Consequences

Often disturbing, sometimes surprising and frequently disheartening, Terrorists, Victims and Society presents a clear and succinct view of what psychological research has revealed about terrorists and terrorism.

Andrew Silke has gathered together contributions from psychologists and psychiatrists who have direct experience of researching terrorism, have met with terrorists and victims of terrorist violence, and with those responsible for combating and responding to terrorism. The first section focuses on terrorists as individuals and as groups and provides a balanced and objective insight into the psychology of terrorists; what their motivations are and what keeps them involved in terrorist groups. The second section explores the huge question of the impact of terrorism; the direct and indirect affect on victims; how societies respond and how political leaders handle the threat and consequences of terrorism. The final section focuses on the question of how to respond to terrorist threat.

The result is a volume that provides a clear, intelligent and well-informed account of what psychology has learned in the past thirty years about issues relating to terrorism. It also demonstrates how one branch of social science can provide a powerful tool for insight and guidance on one of the most challenging problems facing the modern world.