

Many examples might be given to illustrate this conservatism but two will suffice. Until 1898 in England, and much later elsewhere, a person charged with an offence was incompetent to give evidence in his own defence. This rule, which now seems to us utterly unfair and archaic, was strongly defended by some members of the legal profession and the public, who considered that it was advantageous to the accused to be incompetent as a witness. It was only over the strong opposition of a number of eminent lawyers that the law was changed to allow the prisoner to give evidence. A second example was provided when it was first proposed to establish an organised police force; the cries that this would be a serious invasion of liberty prompted Robert Peel to reply: 'I want to teach people that liberty does not consist in having your house robbed by organised gangs of thieves and in leaving the principal streets of London in the nightly

possession of drunken women and vagabonds'.

#### Need to caution

I do not expect that the suggestion that this so-called right to silence should be done away with will be greeted in Australia with universal approbation, but it seems to me that the adoption of the suggestion would be rational in principle and beneficial in practice, and that it would not operate unfairly towards persons accused of crimes, provided that the safeguards which I have already mentioned are made available to every arrested person. If the rule were abolished it would of course be necessary to cease to give a caution in its present form.

It is sometimes suggested that the tendency of the police to rely on confessional evidence is unhealthy, and that they ought to sharpen their methods of investigation and endeavour to obtain

evidence of other kinds. That suggestion, I believe, cannot be proved to be well based. Cynics also assert that it seems contrary to human nature that alleged offenders should freely confess their crimes to the police, but the fact remains that not a few do so. There is therefore every reason why the law should properly regulate the circumstances in which confessions are obtained. Proper regulation of the kind that I have suggested should not only assist the police, but reduce the temptation to fabricate confessions.

The object of this article has been to point to an area of the law, of practical significance, where the rules of the common law clearly seem to require to be supplemented, or supplanted, by statutory provision. Opinions may well differ as to the manner in which any change in the law may be effected. I have attempted no more than to give, in outline, the suggestions which I presently favour. Others may have other views.

## Living in an age of World Terrorism

### Book Review by Brigadier M.H. MacKenzie-Orr, OBE, GM\*

\* *Brigadier M.H. MacKenzie-Orr is Head of the Protective Services Co-Ordination Centre*

'THE Age of Terrorism' is an update of Professor Walter Laqueur's classic 'Terrorism' which first appeared a decade ago and whose latest text is likely to take a similar place in the bibliography of terrorism — one of the most widely-discussed issues of the past ten years.

The second prompts me to wonder if the dozens of field agents, assessors and analysts beavering away at their difficult and dangerous intelligence tasks around the world have the sort of insight with the pages of Amir Taheri's seminal work 'Holy Terror — The Inside Story of Islamic Terrorism' are illuminated. With the Party of Allah encouraging the faithful to export the war against the 'Great Satan' (the USA) to Mecca itself, the Irangate revelations of the US-Iranian arms for hostages deals and the despatch of seven groups of Imams to Islamic countries around the world, Taheri's book could not have been better timed.

Walter Laqueur is Chairman of the International Research Council of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC, a university

professor in the Department of Government at Georgetown University and the editor of the prestigious 'Journal of Contemporary History'.

As one would expect from a distinguished historian the evaluation of a shocking and fascinating phenomenon is undertaken in a dispassionate and analytical manner. The simplifiers and generalisers who produce theories to account for such disparate acts as the bombing of the rail centre at Bologna with the deaths of 80 innocent victims or the recent shooting of a French passenger on the hijacked Air Afrique airliner by a lone Lebanese former inmate of an Israeli prison camp are despatched with unassailable logic.

#### Political terror

In his introduction Professor Laqueur identifies and demolishes the contemporary erroneous beliefs propounded by the mass of terrorist commentators in modern times. The initial chapters chart the development of political terror from 19th Century Europe through the anarchists

of the 1880s and 1890s, the Right and Left Wing factions of the early 20th Century and the more recent multinational operations. He identifies the developments in the last decade and analyses the development and growth of the phenomena, State-sponsored terrorism and narcoterrorism and the reasons for the entirely disproportionate attention paid to the exploiters and perpetrators of terrorist acts in the world beset by truly important problems of our time — the danger of modern technology (Chernobyl), Third World debt, famine and over-population, new and incurable diseases.

He identifies the impotence of major military powers in the face of the terrorist sponsored activities of strutting bemedalled military despots who never saw a shot fired in anger until a totally frustrated America mounted a raid on his home base — with dubious effects on the resolution of the problem it sought to attack.

#### Sociology

He examines the sociology of terrorism, its funding intelligence gathering weapons and tactics, informers and counter measures and the crucial role of the media which must soon get around to producing annual awards for the most spectacular act of terrorism brought to the living rooms of millions in the increasing search for greater stimulation of senses dulled by unending chapters in the saga of mass inhumanity.

As a former bomb disposer and practitioner of operational counter-terrorism, I found Professor Laqueur's book both highly readable and stimulating.

While we in Australia are far removed from those parts of the world in which

terrorism appears to be endemic and do not have the ethnic, religious or material disparities in our society in which terrorism seems to flourish we are not untouched by international terrorism. The members of our society, police, security services, defence force and political leaders could all profit from a study of the careful analysis and thoughtful comments of Professor Laqueur. Terrorism is not new — but it is dynamic and Professor Laqueur has produced a worthy update to his classic work 'Terrorism' of a decade ago.

#### Journalist

Amir Theri was the editor-in-chief of 'Kayghan' Iran's largest selling daily newspaper between 1973 and 1977 — before the Party of Allah staged its revolution and terminated the Pavlavi dynasty to the considerable surprise of most of the free world — but not, I suspect, to Amir Taheri. He worked for the Sunday Times between 1980 and 1984 and contributed to a number of heavy dailies and weeklies, basing his articles and research for his book on interviews with many of the world's leading statesmen and women and five years of research, case studies and field reports from Iran, Turkey, Egypt, the Lebanon, Morocco, the Gulf States and the Western nations directly threatened by the 'Holy terrorists'.

#### Revolution

The number of followers of Islam in the world is estimated at between 800 million and one billion. Of that number, some 250,000 live in Australia and of them 150,000 in New South Wales.

'Day and night I beg Allah to hasten the moment promised to me when I shall become a complete human being, one chosen by Allah and then Iran to kill for the glory of Islam.'

These words from a graduate of an Iranian 'School of Martyrs' expresses the feelings of thousands of the children of the revolution determined to use force to raise the banner of Islam in every capital of the world.

The focus of world attention on terrorism is the Middle East. To understand Islamic terror and its manifestations is one of the most urgent needs for maintaining an ever more fragile world peace. How significant that at a time when the major powers are moving towards an agreement on a strategic arms limitations treaty in Geneva, their deliberations should be relegated to the inside pages by the Iranian inspired riots in Mecca against the 'Great Satan'.

Has the nuclear guarantor of world peace begun to take back seat in international debate to the activities of relatively few individuals with poisoned daggers, bombs, guns, and a willingness to die for the cause of Islam — and its manipulators?



*Detective Chief Superintendent  
Arthur Brown*

Mr Taheri's book is fascinating. He traces the many strands of the Islamic faith from the 7th Century to the visit by Robert McFarlane and Ollie North to Teheran in 1986. He identifies the leaders who have arisen as disciples of the true faith, flourished, trod their time upon the boards and then perished.

The history is replete with leaders torn down by their erstwhile followers, seduced from the city of faith by the city of war, whose blood was declared worthless and whose lives therefore became forfeit. To a Westerner, it is a doom and gloom laden faith. Contrast the declaration 'his blood is worthless' with the optimistic Australian expression 'his blood is worth bottling'.

The book is well structured. It discusses the training and motivation of the soldiers of Islam; how they plan their missions, how the interplay of religious and economic imperatives force leaders occasionally to stray from the shining path and how any accommodation sought by representatives of the Great Satan are doomed to failure.

A chilling book but compulsory reading to anyone engaged in the preservation of society from the effects of the holy terrors.

Both books have very extensive footnotes and a comprehensive index. It is significant that the two books should emerge in the same period — one by a man who has established himself as a giant among contemporary writers on the subject of terrorism, the second by a journalist who has produced a book which will take its place among the standard works as a major contribution to understanding the more recent phenomenon of holy terror.

## AFP OFFICER TO BRAMSHILL

Detective Chief Superintendent Arthur Brown will this month take up a two year posting on the directing staff at the Police Staff College, Bramshill, when he replaces Chief Superintendent Bill Antill who has completed two years there.

Chief Superintendent Peter Dawson was the first AFP officer to be invited to the directing staff in 1984 and the attachments have become regular since.

Detective Chief Superintendent Brown said that the attachment was extremely important as it affords the AFP the opportunity to study and understand policing not only in the UK but Europe and with the many visitors who come there from all over the world.

He said it would be an opportunity to compare the standards of Australian policing with those of other police forces and to hopefully identify innovations which could be used for Australians policing.

It would also be valuable in the context that the AFP was becoming increasingly involved in international policing efforts particularly drug trafficking, organised crime and complex fraud, and to see these policing efforts from a global viewpoint.

Because of his level within the AFP he also considered it would be very useful to comprehend and implement modern administrative practices in contemporary policing. It was important for any modern police force to have an administrative structure and system which was keeping up with the operational demands.

It will also be an opportunity to visit the land of his childhood of Scotland in 1946. He migrated to Australia in 1954 with his parents and was educated in Canberra. He joined the former ACT Police Force in 1965 and spent much of his detective working life in the CIB and fraud. At the amalgamation he was designated Chief Inspector and was most recently the Commander of the Fraud and General Crime Division in Canberra.

- 'The Age of Terrorism', by Walter Laqueur, Weindenfeld and Nicholson, London. Price: UK Pounds 17.95.
  - 'Holy Terror — The Inside Story of Islamic Terrorism', by Amir Taheri, Century Hutchinson Ltd. Price: UK pounds 12.95.
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