

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Special Issue on Cyber Terrorism and the Dark Side of the Information Society

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The immediate emergence of the information society has enabled the swift spread of knowledge, interpersonal relationships and has facilitated innovative modes of communication and social interaction. But these advancements have been accompanied by a dark side. The technological advancement of human interaction has opened spaces that have been filled by hackers, online predators, sophisticated computer viruses and the evolution of cyber terrorism. The knowledge society creates opportunities. It has also generated dangerous vulnerabilities.

This special issue of the *International Journal of Cyber Warfare and Terrorism* (IJCWT) looks at the impact of these darker issues and the ways they hinder (or aid) the spread of the information society. Since information and technology play a crucial role in the process of knowledge, the goals of this special call is to find and discuss to what an extent that opens the doors for the vulnerability. In fact, following the concept of reversibility, it is important to understand how terrorism takes advantage of existent prevailing technology against West. In

other contexts, technology poses a centralization of authority that wakes up resistance in users. The complexity of ITC shows how riots and revolts may be managed in few days employing the digital technology at fingertips. ITCs seem to be for some specialists a double-edge sword, its understanding therefore is vital. First and foremost, we do thank specially to all involved authors as well as Matthew Warren who kindly opened the doors of his prestige journal to express our ideas and stances. Although the main topic of this issue seems to be the cyber-terrorism, this is not limited to that. We prefer to combine the perspectives of senior's scholars, who concerned by the connection of technology, information, and terrorism, eludes a great paradox to resolve. We protect homeland from external potential attacks, mobilizing all available resources, but at the same time, our societies become more vulnerable.

At a closer look, David Altheide examines the intrigue of Cyber terrorism starred by Edward Snowden as well as the Obama's administration policies to show its power and

accuracy. At time the design for controlling and protecting national security needs from further information, more probabilities to suffer spills or any types of sabotage. The challenge of communication is given to prioritize strategies to monitor the leaker, predicting its next steps. In the process of instilling a message to audience, status quo faces a big problem precisely because its efforts to create great system of control give much importance to individual agents. In a similar vein, Korstanje argues that the paradox of risk, which means that any attempts to mitigate some risks in one direction, open others, can be explained by a much deeper Anglo-cultural matrix. English speaking countries are risk-oriented because their cosmology is based on the principle of predestination. Technology, not only would of paramount assistance to predict the future, but also leads all civilization directly to there; Further, the obsession of Anglo-states to avoid supposed catastrophes which have never taken room in present ushers governments to create new unseen disasters. This is why Geoffrey Skoll, in the third paper, explains “the control of symbols equals to the control of consciousness”. This was exactly what Snowden showed respecting to CIA operative intelligence. What should be important to discuss here is how beyond the archetype of terrorism, governments move their resources to control lay people. At the moment, the groups of pressure, as worker union or any other, raise their claims to government, the fear-mongering not only serves as a mechanism of indoctrination, but dissuades to

accept policies otherwise would be neglected. Terrorism, in other terms, revitalizes the power of elites.

Primavera Fisogni analyses specially the attacks to the marathon in Boston (2013) which in sharp opposition to the classical strategies of Al-Qaeda, this episodes are catalogued under “lone wolves” category by the media. Comparing to the archetype of 9/11, Tsarnaevs’s brothers are portrayed to update global terrorism. When we speak of terrorists, they are automatically excluded from the rights, and concepts of warriors, situated to define the dialectical connection between combatants and non-combatants. Terrorists are silenced and mobilized according to an “unlawful definition” of crime, but the paradox is that they remain beyond the jurisprudence of law. Last but not least, Korstanje proposes a conceptual model to measure the degree of fear may a society experience. From his view, risk, insurance and capital are inextricably intertwined. Communities and their fears can be studied by their manners of contemplating and evaluating risks. Based on the contributions of Luke Howie, he considers that terrorism “*ignites a lot of industrial services and products disposed by the market in order for the citizen feel safer. The insurance not only is one of them but offers the possibility to produce risks.*”

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