

*Book Review***Martha Crenshaw (ed.), *THE CONSEQUENCES OF
COUNTERTERRORISM*****Russell Sage Foundation Press, February 1, 2010***Simona HOBINCU*

Martha Crenshaw is currently a senior fellow at CISAC and FSI at Stanford University and a professor of political science by courtesy at Stanford University. She was the Colin and Nancy Campbell Professor of Global Issues and Democratic Thought and professor of government at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., from 1974 to 2007. She also served on the Executive Board of Women in International Security and chaired the American Political Science Association (APSA) Task Force on Political Violence and Terrorism. Her researches focus on terrorism and counterterrorism and she has written extensively on both issues. She is a pioneer in terrorism studies and her first article, 'The Concept of Revolutionary Terrorism' was published in the Journal of Conflict Resolution in 1972.

After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks another issue equally acute as the terrorism one has represented and is still representing the outline of the counterterrorism measures to be taken by the Governments of different States. Given the gain of the terrorism actions in the period subsequent to 9/11 we witnessed for one side the magnifying of the retaliation against terrorists and, for the other side, a strengthening of the extent of security in the majority of the democratic States. Due to their strive to reach the utmost of efficiency in their combat against terrorism and to preserve the safety and security of the nation, the Governments of the liberal States confronting with the terrorist threat are getting to end by compromising the fundamental democratic values

which they are otherwise in charge of defending them. In this perspective the terrorism is complex king of threat that might lead to the erosion of the democratic States legitimacy.

The Consequences of Counterterrorism' comprise a set of case studies which examine the 'political consequences of government countermeasures design to combat terrorism and the policy outcome that change democratic institutions, processes and values'. The main questions to which they attempt to find an answer during the research are: What are the political consequences of counterterrorism measures taken by liberal democracies and the international institutions that link them? And how severe are the negative effects of counterterrorism on civil liberties, the rule of law, and the patterns of governance?

When trying to answer these questions the research focuses on advanced liberal democracies other than the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain, Japan and Israel. The book uses a historical and comparative perspective, describes the counterterrorism policies of different States, explains the occurred changes and estimates their efficiency. It also underlines the challenges the democratic governments and citizens are subjected to in order to cope with the terrorist threat in the present times, but as well as prior to the September 11, 2001 events, taking into account that terrorism is not a new kind of threat against the democratic and liberal democracies.

The volume is edited by Martha Crenshaw and the contributors are: Rogelio Alonso, Giovanni Capoccia, Chantal de Jonge Oudraat, Jean-Luc Mareet, John E. Finn, Dirk Haubrich, Gallya Lahav, Jeremy Shapiro, Amy Pedahzur, Arie Perliger and David Leheny.

The first part of the book refers to "Governance, Civil Liberties and Securitization" and analyses the way the counterterrorism policies impact "constitutions and the judiciaries, the creation of the lists of designated terrorist

organizations, and the relationship between counterterrorism and immigration policy in the European Union. In the second part of the book “National Counterterrorism Responses” are laid out the case studies of Great Britain, France, Germany, Spain, Japan and Israel.

According to Martha Crenshaw,

the contributors to this volume agree that the effects of the response to terrorism have been costly to democracy in many ways, but that within certain broad outlines, policy consequences have been differed in nature and severity. In general, policy change since 2001 have been more damaging to democracy than earlier counterterrorism measures, even as responses to Al Qaeda and its associated groups have usually not departed radically from counterterrorism policies of the past. A key consideration in analyzing these issues is the possibility that a government response to terrorism will diminish democracy more than the acts of terrorism themselves.