



Dirty Entanglements: Corruption, Crime, and Terrorism. By Louise I. Shelley. New York, N.Y.: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

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***Dirty Entanglements: Corruption, Crime, and Terrorism.* By Louise I. Shelley. New York, N.Y.: Cambridge University Press, 2014. ISBN 987-1-107-68930-5. Notes. Index. Pp.vi, 370. \$29.99**

In her new book, Louise I. Shelley explores “dirty entanglements” or the intersection of crime, corruption, and terrorism and their impact on global security and the economy. In order to make any headway against this damaging knot, she explains that a robust approach is needed whereby government, media, business, academic, and public communities must join forces and form a united front. Shelley’s background has provided her with a large network of groups to draw from which helped support this research. This book has resulted from her travels to the former Soviet Union, Asia, North and South Africa, and the Middle East, spanning fifteen years where she investigated the intersection of crime and terrorism. The book is comprehensive in scope and suitable for graduate, undergraduate, public sector, and private sectors alike.

In this book, Shelley argues that crime and corruption are interwoven with terrorism and together this “dirty entanglement” is having a detrimental impact on economic and global security. Through a series of case studies Shelley clearly demonstrates how terrorist organizations come to participate in, and benefit from, criminal acts such as theft, human smuggling and trafficking, and extortion to achieve their political goals. However the criminal component is not enough to ensure their success, and thus corruption serves as a major factor which helps aid in the success of these organizations. By collectively looking at the behavior of terrorist organizations Shelley is able to demonstrate how these organizations utilize key business practices in order to achieve their ends. Ultimately Shelley argues that unless there is a whole of society approach that helps to address the central issue of corruption the future will be bleak as societies will further decay allowing crime and terrorism to run rampant.

Dirty Entanglements helps to bind the criminal justice literature on crime and corruption to that of terrorism in a clear and sufficient manner. She breaks the book down into two parts, the first on “The Logic of Corruption, Crime, and Terrorism” and the second on “The Diverse Business of Terrorism.” It is within this second half of the book where Shelley meticulously demonstrates that when looking at terrorism and its ability to flourish, one must also consider it alongside the criminal element that serves to support and help fund it along with the corruption that allows these activities to carry on unchallenged. It is here where the reader develops an understanding of how terrorist organizations are utilizing business practices to help sustain their organization in a rational manner. While terrorists can gain additional recruits through their dealings with criminal syndicates, crime offers terrorists a way to fund their organizations when donations are sparse. Of particular interest is Shelley’s discussion on the

centrality of prisons and the unique opportunity they provide for the intermingling of terrorists and criminals, in addition to her discussion on the antiquities trade and counterfeits.

In chapter four Shelley explains the importance that prisons play in the entanglement of crime, corruption and terrorism. It is explained that the prison structure itself plays a significant role in bringing terrorists and criminals together. In addition to the comingling that takes place, the prison experience can lead to the politicization of prisoners making them increasingly vulnerable to recruitment by terrorist cell mates. Much like gang members capitalizing from corrupt prison guards, terrorists too can benefit from corruption within prisons, gaining access to a wide variety of resources to help further their efforts. In chapter seven both trade in ancient antiquities and counterfeits are discussed. Here Shelley demonstrates how engagement in this trade comes as a result of its very high profitability (rivaling that of the profitability of the drug trade) and low risk. The antiquities trade is highly profitable as relics can be sold quickly over the internet. The sale of counterfeits not only infringes on copyright but can also cause serious harm when it comes to purchase of illicit pharmaceuticals, and other consumer goods.

Shelley's discussion on "the business of terrorism" provides a unique perspective for viewing terrorist organizations as nefarious businesses. It is here where terrorist involvement in crime is broken down and explained as a means to aid in financing the operations of the organization. Similar to legitimate businesses, Shelley explains that terrorists participate in crime to generate their revenues. By participating in a wide array of criminal behaviors terrorists are able to diversify their opportunities similar to a business seeing to broaden its reach. Common crimes continue to be robberies, kidnappings, and extortion, but terrorists are increasingly using technology to carry out various acts of financial fraud like that of credit card fraud and identity theft.

This timely book has major relevancy in our current security environment and is a must read for anyone interested criminal justice and security studies.

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