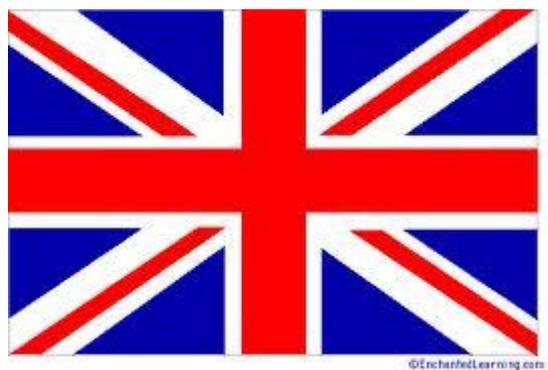


A guide to national security

Julian Richards

Oxford University Press, 2012

ISBN 978-0-19-965506-9



**Book review by Sally Ramage, Editor,
The Criminal Lawyer, Bloomsbury
Professional**

The guide

National security is a notion of the quality a nation possesses.¹ In order to possess national security, a nation needs to have economic security, energy security, environmental security, etc. Security threats involve not only conventional foes such as other nation-states but also non-state actors such as violent non-state actors, narcotic cartels, multinational corporations and non-governmental organisations; some authorities include natural disasters and events causing severe environmental damage in this category.

The book focuses on the new coalition government's review strategy² through which the UK government announced a new 'National Security Council'. The National Security Council (NSC) is the main forum for collective discussion of the Government's objectives for national security and about how best to deliver them in the current financial climate. A key purpose of the Council is to ensure that Ministers of the UK government consider national security in the round and in a strategic way. The Council meetings are held weekly and are chaired by Prime Minister David Cameron. The Government has published *its Strategic Defence and Security Review: Securing Britain in an Age of Uncertainty* which sets out how we will deliver the priorities identified in the *National Security Strategy*. It describes how the UK plans to equip the armed forces, police and intelligence agencies to tackle present and future threats.

¹ See pages 16-17.

² The new UK government's National Security Strategy

Bearing in mind that the United Kingdom is one of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (the United Nations Security Council has the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security) which already has been viewed by critics as an 'old boy's network' for its permanent members, who are seen as prioritising their own status and excluding others whose interests and motives, regarding nuclear warfare power, is different to theirs. Bearing in mind the new United States Obama government has been in power for a few years more than the United Kingdom's present government, let us look at the cold facts about 'international peace' as brought about by the UK and the US.

The threat levels

Julian Richards' book *Guide to National Security* takes the reader through the concept of a global security threat, and explains the three levels of security risks, ie the 'Tier One', 'Tier Two' and 'Tier Three' threats.³ Julian Richards analyses the threat to the security of the UK by setting out his reasoning into three parts- part one, chapters one to five, explaining this threat; part two dealing with the responses to this threat⁴ and part three, which deals with the plans by the UK government to strategically neutralise these threats to its national security.⁵ Of course, this brings into play the citizen's privacy rights, increasingly encroached in the name of security. For example, the United Kingdom can boast excellent pioneering knowledge in the field of biometrics. The dread endangered by Al-Qaida and affiliated combinations have driven most subsequent legal and policy initiatives since the attacks on September 11, 2001. Biometrics schemes are being implemented across the world and the technology is widely used in small settings for access control to secure locations such as a nuclear facility. However, biometrics is increasingly being used for broader applications such as retail outlets, government agencies, childcare centres, police forces and automated banking cash-machines.⁶

Strategies: Finance at the heart of punishment methods used

Julian Richards explains the strategies for peace keeping in chapters 7 to 11 of this new book, *A guide to national security*. The U.S. uses powerful methods of punishing countries viewed as a threat to global security.⁷ When the United States sanctioned Iran for a perceived threat to global nuclear security, it used trade sanctions and at the same time, exempted 11 countries, (whose banks have been given a six-month reprieve from the threat of being cut off from the U.S. financial system) United States sanctions to put pressure Iran over its nuclear programme. Of course, this, in turn, could trigger a possible oil sanction against the Western world by what could be seen as a 'kind of western blockade of oil supplies'.⁸ In the US, the government has recently reduced by \$32 million its budget for two programmes at the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. The U.S. programme titled *Global Threat Reduction* was designed to secure nuclear material at civilian sites around the world. It plans to continue to reduce this funding over four years. The U.S. government has severely reduced its funding of the programme titled *International Nuclear Materials Protection and Cooperation* program, designed to improve security at vulnerable stockpiles of nuclear weapons in countries deemed to be of special concern.

³ See Chapters 3, 4 and 5.

⁴ See Chapter 6.

⁵ See chapters 7 to 11, with his conclusions in chapter 12.

⁶ Ramage, S. (2007) *Privacy Law*, New York: iUniverse.

⁷ Arshad Mohammed and Andrew Quinn 'U.S. exempts 11 states from Iran sanctions; China, India exposed', *Reuters*, 20 March 2012.

⁸ Tania Branigan, 'China unlikely to support anti-nuclear sanctions against oil ally Iran', *Guardian Newspaper*, 16 December 2009.

Similarly, the UK government from 21 November 2011 imposed tough new financial restrictions against Iran by cutting off all financial ties with Iranian banks. This followed the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) last report on Iran, highlighting fresh concerns about the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear programme. This was the first time that the UK had used powers to cut an entire country's banking sector off and the mover underlines the severity of the UK government's concerns about Iran's activities. From 15:00 Monday 21 November 2011, all UK credit and financial institutions were required to cease business relationships and transactions with all Iranian banks, including the Central Bank of Iran, and their branches and subsidiaries

Memento mori

'Memento mori', translated from Latin, means: 'Remember you are mortal'. In the Queen's Speech to Parliament on 20 March 2012, Her Majesty used those words, *memento mori*, which remind us that that what politicians do today will reverberate to future generations of the nation.

International Criminal Court

The UK referred Libya to the ICC in 2011 for its criminal acts⁹ and *requested* all United Nations Member States, to the extent possible, to cooperate in the evacuation of those foreign nationals wishing to leave the country.¹⁰ At the same time the UK called upon all States, in particular States neighbouring the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, '*to inspect, in accordance with their national authorities and legislation and consistent with international law, in particular the law of the sea and relevant international civil aviation agreements, all cargo to and from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in their territory, including seaports and airports, if the State concerned has information that provides reasonable grounds to believe the cargo contains items the supply, sale, transfer, or export of which is prohibited by paragraphs 9 or 10 this resolution for the purpose of ensuring strict implementation of those provisions*'.

One excellent example of proper preventive strategies learnt is with regard to the emergency response and evacuation after terrorist attacks at the World Trade Centre in New York. By examining the past terrorist attempts, U.S fire and police in New York saw the world's best example of emergency vehicle gridlock, in the New York Police Department (NYPD) and the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) response to the 1993 attack, which involved a 1,300 pound chemical VBIED detonated in the underground parking deck (killing six people and injuring thousands). The transport of injured persons was greatly hampered that day by the 'crush' of emergency responders and their vehicle. Tragedy struck the same street on September 11, 2001 when terrorist attacks killed thousands. New York responders had learned their lesson and kept half of the street free of emergency vehicles to facilitate the flow of resources. Other lessons they learned from the 1993 attack included: emergency power supplies for lighting in the stairwells, reflective tape and a loudspeaker system to facilitate evacuations; fire wardens for each floor of the towers who kept a daily tally of souls on the floor and any special evacuation needs; a radio repeater system to boost signals to emergency responders inside the buildings; and many more refinements to the emergency plan. In a

⁹ The serious 'violations of human rights and international humanitarian law that are being committed in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya'.

¹⁰ See http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/unscr_1970_270211.pdf.

similar way, the UK analysed past terrorist attacks, and with the 2012 London Olympic games forthcoming, the Metropolitan police, Fire and Rescue services, and others recently undertook a three day mock session of a terrorist attack to practice their techniques for rescuing as many lives as possible.

This book mostly ‘unpacks’ everything you need to know about national security in a clear and simple way. One of Julian Richards key points in his conclusion in chapter 12 of the book, is that ‘the newly formed National Security Council process appears to have brought about a greater degree of rigour to the process of making decisions on major national security issues, and the Libya crisis was one of the many early tests for it.’

Reading relevance

Not only is this an important addition to the academic world of anti-terrorism law, but is essential reading especially for police involved in airport security, transport police and reader interested in security anywhere,

References

Editor, ‘Obama's nuclear-free vision faces reality check’ *Reuters*, 20 March 2012.

Ralph Begleiter, Meredith Fuchs, Thomas Blanton, Daniel Mach, ‘Pentagon releases more photos of war casualty honour guards: Freedom of Information Lawsuit Removes Secrecy for Flag-Draped casket ceremonies’, *The National Security Archive*, 4 August 2005.

See <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB161/index.htm>.

James Kirkup, ‘Queen reminds politicians of their own mortality’, *Telegraph Newspaper*, 20 March 2012.