

Roversi, A. (2008) *HATE ON THE NET, Extremist Sites, Neo-fascism On-line, Electronic Jihad*, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing, 2008  
ISBN 978-0-7546-7214-2 Book Review by Sally Ramage

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### **Book Review by Sally Ramage**

The first sentence of Roversi's book struck a chord with me. He wrote: *'I did all the research for this book sitting comfortably in my study. All I needed was a laptop, an always-on connection to the Internet and a lot of time.....'*

Being severely disabled, I myself engage in much desk research and I can empathise with Roversi.

We are all aware, mostly from media reports of terrorism in all its forms, of terror groups on the internet and of extremists, be they pornographers or religious extremists. Indeed, in the UK, the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 introduced a new criminal offence of 'extreme pornography'.

This book consists of just 4 chapters which I read straight through as I found its outrageous contents unbelievable. The four chapters are titled:

1. The Net and the Web: Web Communication
2. Football Fans on the Net: Ultra Websites
3. The Black Pages: Fascist and Neo-Nazi Websites
4. One More Weapon: The Use of the Web in the Middle East Conflict.

Roversi gives us a full and frank description of these extremist websites around the world and he also gives us some of these websites. For the first time in my life, I furtively tried to access all the websites he lists and found that all but one was still online. After reading the book and reading the websites, I quickly deleted my searches, being aware of the Terrorism Act 2006 and not wishing to get into any trouble. I was so frightened and startled by what I saw online that I am still in a state of shock that there are people who can think and write such atrocities, flying in the face of laws, of humanity and of decency.

The one site I did not attempt was the FBI site where Rovers states that the FBI has uploaded an edited 'Terrorist Handbook'. I am aware of the case.

However, a Google search under the term 'terrorist handbook' surprisingly brought up the following sites, which I did not venture to:

1. *'The Terrorist's Handbook*  
*Gunzenbomz Pyro-Technologies, a division of Chaos Industries (CHAOS), is proud to present this first edition of The Terrorist's Handbook. ...*

[www.capricorn.org/~akira/home/terror.html](http://www.capricorn.org/~akira/home/terror.html) - Cached - Similar

2. *Terrorism 101: A How-To Guide*  
*The terrorism manual was placed into evidence last year by prosecutors during the federal trial of four men accused of involvement in the 1998 bombing of ...*

[www.thesmokinggun.com/archive/jihadmanual.html](http://www.thesmokinggun.com/archive/jihadmanual.html) - Cached - Similar

3. *The Terrorist's Handbook*

21 Oct 2008 ... *The Terrorists Handbook. I just made it easier to navigate than the other handbooks posted. I take no responsibility of the book or ...*  
[www.scribd.com/doc/7427997/The-Terrorists-Handbook](http://www.scribd.com/doc/7427997/The-Terrorists-Handbook) - Cached - Similar

4. *The Terrorist Handbook .PDF E-book Download*

*Handbook of poultry feed from waste torrent · Terrorist handbook · Constantin stanislavski · Yamaha outboard service manual ...*  
[www.pdf-search-engine.com/the-terrorist-handbook-pdf.html](http://www.pdf-search-engine.com/the-terrorist-handbook-pdf.html) - Cached - Similar

5. *CRC Press Online - Book: Terrorist Recognition Handbook*  
*Terrorist Recognition Handbook: A Practitioner's Manual for Predicting and Identifying Terrorist Activities, Second Edition ...*

[www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781420071832](http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781420071832) - Cached - Similar

6. *The Terrorist's Handbook Written BY: UNKNOWN AUTHOR HEAVILY EDITED ...*

*The techniques herein can be obtained from public libraries, and can usually be carried out by a terrorist with mi File: The Terrorist's Handbook Uploaded ...*

[www.skepticfiles.org/conspire/terrordo.htm](http://www.skepticfiles.org/conspire/terrordo.htm) - Cached - Similar

7. *Amazon.com: The Terrorist Recognition Handbook: A Manual for ...*

*Amazon.com: The Terrorist Recognition Handbook: A Manual for Predicting and Identifying Terrorist Activities (9781592280254): Malcolm Nance: Books.*

[www.amazon.com/Terrorist...Handbook.../dp/1592280250](http://www.amazon.com/Terrorist...Handbook.../dp/1592280250) - Cached - Similar

8. [PDF]

*OVC Handbook for Coping after Terrorism: A Guide to Healing and... File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - View*

*Coping After Terrorism. The information in this handbook is intended to help you understand your reactions to an act of terrorism or mass violence. It is ...*

[www.ojp.gov/ovc/publications/infores/cat\\_hndbk/NCJ190249.pdf](http://www.ojp.gov/ovc/publications/infores/cat_hndbk/NCJ190249.pdf) - Similar

9. [PDF]

*Handbook on Counter-Terrorism Measures - Independent Sector File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - View as HTML*

*Handbook on. Counter-Terrorism Measures: What U.S. Nonprofits and Grantmakers. Need to Know. A plain-language guide to Executive Order 13224 ...*

[www.independentsector.org/PDFs/counterterrorism.pdf](http://www.independentsector.org/PDFs/counterterrorism.pdf) - Similar

10. [PDF]

*Handbook on Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism (CRIMINAL ... File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - View as HTML*

*HANDBOOK ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSES TO TERRORISM. As noted above, when a person accused of having committed a terrorist offence is present ...*

[www.icclr.law.ubc.ca/.../Handbook%20on%20Crim%20Justice%20Respo](http://www.icclr.law.ubc.ca/.../Handbook%20on%20Crim%20Justice%20Respo)  
*Terro... - Similar*

11. *Book results for terrorist handbook  
Suppressing the Financing of Terrorism: A ... - by International Monetary  
Fund Legal Dept, - 176 pages'*

### **Terrorism**

This was shocking and disconcerting because a terrorism offence in the UK is:

*'..an offence under section 11 or 12 of the Terrorism Act 2000 (offences relating to proscribed organisations); an offence under any of sections 15 to 18 of that Act (offences relating to terrorist property); an offence under section 38B of that Act (failure to disclose information about acts of terrorism); an offence under section 54 of that Act (weapons training); an offence under any of sections 56 to 59 of that Act (directing terrorism, possessing things and collecting information for the purposes of terrorism and inciting terrorism outside the United Kingdom); an offence in respect of which there is jurisdiction by virtue of section 62 of that Act (extra-territorial jurisdiction in respect of certain offences committed outside the United Kingdom for the purposes of terrorism etc.); and an offence under Part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006 (miscellaneous terrorist related offences).'*

Yet terrorist training material was an online click away from any person, child or adult, inside or outside the United Kingdom! One must remember that when it comes to selecting targets, terrorists think globally but act locally. Local events and persons are still the primary source of information about terrorist activities. Studies have revealed that International terrorists live relatively near their targets, whereas right-wing terrorists live in rural areas but select targets in nearby cities. Studies also reveal that, compared to environmental extremists, for instance, international terrorists engaged in nearly three times as many preparatory acts per incident, and the average planning cycle was considerably longer.

### **Terrorism News Reports Online**

Terrorism reports by the media do tend to keep the situation in perspective and show that, overall, the authorities have this type of criminality under control, as the media reports below show:

1. *British police arrest 2 more in terror probe", MSNBC, 2007-07-01. Retrieved on 2007-07-01.*
2. *"More suspects held in UK terror attacks", CNN, 2007-06-30. Retrieved on 2007-06-30.*
3. *"Airport alert 'is terror attack'", BBC News, 2007-06-30. Retrieved on 2007-06-30.*
4. *"Doctors among those detained in UK terror probes", CNN, 2007. Retrieved on 2007-08-03.*
5. *"Terror suspects moved to London", BBC News, 2007-07-03. Retrieved on 2007-07-06.*
6. *Airports respond to terror alert. Retrieved on 2007-07-01.*
7. *Terrorists not 'home-grown', BBC News 1 July 2007*

8. "U.S. transit systems heighten security", MSNBC, 2007-06-30. Retrieved on 2007-06-30.
9. "Tighter Security at Some US Airports", Guardian Unlimited, 2007-06-30. Retrieved on 2007-06-30.
10. Department of Homeland Security press release for 29 June 2007.
11. "US Warned of Glasgow Threat Two Weeks Ago", ABC News, 2007-06-30. Retrieved on 2007-06-30.
12. Associated Press. "Suspicious package forces evacuation at JFK terminal", 2007-07-01. Retrieved on 2007-07-07.

### **Fear of terrorism**

The continuing menace of terrorism around the world cannot be denied, and it is time to take the implications seriously. The threat is real. There are two kinds of fear that the threat of terrorism creates. Irrational anxiety is brought about just by the knowledge that extremists websites exist. It increases a sense of insecurity and interferes with production and efficiency and is eventually replaced either by on-going background stress or by denial and complacency that enable us to ignore the real danger. Then there is the rational fear of terrorism which occurs when people recognize that the danger is real and develops proactive resolutions to counter the threat. It is a constructive reaction to a real and present danger. The process of understanding the nature of threat, and taking proactive steps towards definitive solutions creates an environment in which security can be significantly enhanced and continuity of life and 'business as usual' can prevail.

### **Conclusion**

This book was a frightening journey into the dark. We must fervently believe that the Rule of Law will force out extremism and as Tony Blair said in his 2006 speech at the Los Angeles World Affairs Council on the 1st August 2006, we need a complete renaissance of our strategy against the arc of extremism fanning out across the world, for we will not win the battle against this global extremism by conventional means alone but by winning at the level of values as much as force. To win the war of values we have to show, that our values are stronger, better and more just. We must show justice rather than the injustice of those of extremists. A brave writer has dared to delve deeply into the subject of internet extremism.