

was illegal. The judge ruled that the government had violated the 1978 federal statute requiring court approval for domestic surveillance when it intercepted phone calls of a now-defunct Islamic charity. He ruled that the expansive use of the so-called state-secrets privilege was amounting to unfettered executive-branch discretion that had obvious potential for governmental abuse and was overreaching. In 2008, Congress had overhauled the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to bring federal statutes into closer alignment with what the government had been secretly doing. The legislation essentially legalized certain aspects of the program. The overhauled law, however, still required the government to obtain a warrant if it was focusing on an American citizen or an organization inside the United States. Therefore, the surveillance of the Islamic charity was still unlawful if no court had approved it.¹⁷³

On March 9, 2006, President Bush signed the USA Patriot Reauthorization Act of 2005, making all sections of the 2001 act permanent. Some sections were amended slightly, but none were deleted. Ruiz and Winters wrote that the bill was passed with little evidence to demonstrate the need for these measures and that evidence had begun to bubble

up of abuses of these wide-ranging powers. They related that on the day the bill was signed, the U.S. Department of Justice reported that the FBI had “found apparent violations of its own wiretapping and other intelligence-gathering procedures more than 100 times in the last two years, and problems appear to have grown more frequent.”¹⁷⁴

In a July 2006 Harris Interactive poll, a majority of Americans reported that they were in favor of increasing surveillance of suspected terrorists through cameras, banking records, and cell phones. Seventy percent of those polled stated that they favored expanded camera surveillance on streets and in public places, an increase from 59 percent in June 2005 and from 63 percent shortly after September 11, 2001. Also, 62 percent of respondents said they supported police monitoring of chat rooms and other online forums, an increase from 50 percent in February 2004. In addition, 52 percent of those polled favored police monitoring of cell phones and e-mail, but nearly 6 in 10 respondents said these techniques should be used only with authorization by Congress.¹⁷⁵

The debate over security versus individual rights is sure to continue.

SUMMARY

- During the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, there were 3,047 people murdered: 2,823 at the World Trade Center in New York City, 184 at the Pentagon in Northern Virginia, and 40 in Stony Creek Township, Pennsylvania.
- Terrorism has a long tradition in world history. Terrorist tactics have been used frequently by radical and criminal groups to influence public opinion and to attempt to force authorities to do their will. Terrorists have criminal, political, and other nefarious motives.
- Many Americans as well as many major U.S. firms have been targeted by terrorists in some way. Political extremists and terrorists use the violence and suspense of terrorist acts such as bombing, kidnapping, and hostage situations to put pressure on those in authority to comply with their demands and cause the authorities and public to recognize their power. They use their activities to obtain money for their causes, to alter business or government policies, or to change public opinion.
- Two major definitions of *terrorism* are “the use of violence or threatened violence against innocent people to achieve a social or political goal” and “premeditated politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets.” Terrorists target civilian populations—noncombatants.
- The major forms of terrorism affecting the United States and its citizens are international terrorism and domestic terrorism.
- The USA Patriot Act (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism), signed into law in October 2001, gives law enforcement new ability to search, seize, detain, or eavesdrop in pursuit of possible terrorists.
- The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) was established after the 9/11 attacks to protect the nation’s transportation systems and infrastructure.
- In 2004, the *9/11 Commission Report: The Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist*

Attacks upon the United States made 41 major recommendations to improve homeland security and prevent future acts of terrorism against our nation. Only some of their recommendations have been implemented by the government.

- The cabinet-level U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was established in March 2003 and merged 22 previously disparate domestic agencies. The first DHS priority is to protect the nation against further terrorist attacks. The department's agencies analyze threats and intelligence, guard our borders and airports, protect our critical infrastructure, and coordinate the responses of our nation for future emergencies.
- The DHS controls immigration into the United States through its US-VISIT Program. US-VISIT is

part of a continuum of security measures that begins outside U.S. borders and continues through a visitor's arrival in and departure from the United States. It applies to all visitors entering the United States.

- The FBI is the lead federal agency in the response to and investigation of terrorism.
- Although the federal government's role in responding to and combating terrorism and promoting homeland security is extremely crucial, each act of terrorism is essentially a local problem and must be addressed by local authorities. State and local law enforcement agencies have significantly increased their homeland security efforts since 9/11.
- Since 9/11, there has been a continuing debate about the tools being used by law enforcement to fight terrorism, particularly the Patriot Act.

KEY TERMS

biological weapons

counterterrorism

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

domestic terrorism

Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA Court)

fusion center

homeland security

Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTF) concept

National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC)

national security letters

terrorism

terrorist watchlist

USA Patriot Act

REVIEW EXERCISES

1. List 10 significant changes in U.S. federal, state, and local law enforcement as a result of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on U.S. soil and discuss them.
2. Create a timeline reflecting the emergence of terrorist activities against the United States and its interests.
3. Your professor has arranged for a class debate regarding the war on terrorism and its threats to

the civil liberties of American citizens. She asks you to select a position on this issue: (a) the war on terrorism poses no threat to the civil liberties of American citizens, or (b) the war on terrorism poses a significant threat to the civil liberties of American citizens. Prepare a set of talking points to defend your position.

WEB EXERCISES

1. Use the Internet to obtain the latest personnel statistics for the Department of Homeland Security.
2. Use the Internet to prepare a list of five major terrorist groups. Under each entry, include the group's name, its base of operation, its founding philosophy, and its current goals.
3. Search the Internet for a large police department or sheriff's office in your area and review their website to determine what efforts they are making on behalf of homeland security.