

Book Review

Transnational Security

First Edition

By Dr. Marie-Helen Maras

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The security of any one nation is closely connected to the security of not only neighboring countries, but also all other countries around the globe. Security strategists—national, corporate, or otherwise—can no longer plan for their countries alone. Instead, they must consider the web of security that is woven and rewoven almost daily across the globe—transnational security. In her latest book, Dr. Maras launches readers into a world where the bricks of national security are held in place by the mortar of transnational security.

The issues are not simple. Authors of the national security genre cover the usual list of suspects, such as transnational terrorism and nuclear proliferation. Dr. Maras, however, goes one step further and examines how one threat may facilitate another. Consider the confusion brought on by a hurricane or typhoon. While the gentle soul considers the human misery created, organized crime exploits the lost children—plundered children who are stripped from their families and become the commodities of human trafficking (read page 164).

One caution—readers should not expect to be spared from dark history. Dr. Maras presents issues in full context, warts and all. In one section, she examines past efforts to weaponize infectious diseases, such as the distribution of smallpox-laden blankets to the American Indians during the French-Indian Wars and the experiments using cholera on the people of Manchuria during the Second World War (start on page 220). Dr. Maras spares no one in framing transnational threats for her reader's consideration.

This book is both well researched and well documented. Dr. Maras gives readers copious footnotes with which to pursue topics of interest. The well-structured table of contents and complete index are welcome aids to researchers.

For those tasked with researching and developing security policy, student and practitioner alike, this is your book.

