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## Faculty Spotlight

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## John Mueller

John Mueller is Woody Hayes Chair of National Security Studies at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies and Professor of Political Science at The Ohio State University. His interests include international politics, foreign policy, defense policy, public opinion, democratization, economic history, post-Communism, and terrorism.

Mueller is author or editor of 15 books, including:

- *Overblown: How Politicians and the Terrorism Industry Inflate National Security Threats, and Why We Believe Them* (Free Press, 2006)
- *The Remnants of War* (Cornell, 2004), winner of the Joseph P. Leibold Prize for Best Book on International Relations from Georgetown University
- *Capitalism, Democracy, and Ralph's Pretty Good Grocery* (Princeton, 1999)
- *Quiet Cataclysm: Reflections on the Recent Transformation of World Politics* (HarperCollins, 1995)
- *Policy and Opinion in the Gulf War* (University of Chicago, 1994)
- *Retreat from Doomsday: The Obsolescence of Major War* (Basic Books, 1989)
- *War, Presidents and Public Opinion* (Wiley, 1973), selected as one of the "Fifty Books That Significantly Shaped Public Opinion Research, 1946-1995" in *Public Opinion Quarterly*, and recipient of the first Warren J. Mitofsky Award for Excellence by the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research

Mueller is currently working on a book project under contract with Oxford University Press called *Atomic Obsession: Reactions and Overreactions to Terrorism*. It argues that because of practical difficulties involved in developing, delivering, and detonating an atomic device, it is highly unlikely rogue states or terrorists will get their hands on a



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nuclear weapon. Even if they did, this does not mean they would use it, and even if they did use it, they could not inflict enough damage to destroy the United States.

However, Mueller argues, the obsessive quest to control nuclear proliferation has resulted not only in massive unnecessary expenditures on policing and protection, but in making the very terrorists and rogue states who we are trying to keep from getting nuclear weapons want them even more. It has also led to far more casualties - through tactics like decades-long sanctions in Iraq that led to hundreds of thousands of civilian deaths - than all the weapons of mass destruction combined.

Mueller also regularly appears at seminars and workshops on national security. In September, he and Mary Ellen O'Connell organized "What is War," an interdisciplinary conference that sought to define when conflict, crime or terrorism legally becomes war. He is chairing a panel for a conference on terrorism next January sponsored by the Cato Institute.

Mueller also shared his thoughts on the terrorist threat - or lack thereof -- with 15 U.S. members of Congress at an Aspen Institute Congressional Program in April. Among those in attendance were Sens. Sherrod Brown and George Voinovich of Ohio.

Mueller was interviewed by more than 65 major media outlets this year for his expertise on Iraq war, war on terror, and war and public opinion. These include *The New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *USA Today*, BBC, and Voice of America.

One of his most talked-about pieces was "Dead and Deader" in the *Los Angeles Times*, in which Mueller measured the ever-rising death toll in the four *Rambo* films by charting such statistics as the number of bad guys killed by Rambo with his shirt on, number of bad guys killed by Rambo with his shirt off, and number of deaths per minute.

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