

MERSHON CENTER

for International Security Studies



ABOUT US | RESEARCH | NEWS | EVENTS | GRANTS | PEOPLE | PUBLICATIONS | CONTACT

You are here: [Home](#) | [News](#) | [Mershon News](#) | Shapiro wins Furniss Book Award for 'The Terrorist's Dilemma'

NEWS MENU

MERSHON NEWS

EXPERTS LIST

FACT SHEET

SHAPIRO WINS FURNISS BOOK AWARD FOR 'THE TERRORIST'S DILEMMA'



How do terrorist groups control their members? Do the tools groups use to monitor their operatives and enforce discipline create security vulnerabilities that governments can exploit?

Jacob N. Shapiro, associate professor of politics and international affairs at Princeton University, answers these questions and more in *The Terrorist's Dilemma: Managing Violent Covert Organizations* (Princeton University Press, 2013), winner of the Mershon Center's Edgar S. Furniss Book Award.



The winning author receives a cash grant and is invited to speak about the book at Mershon Center. Shapiro will speak at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 13, 2015. Read more and register at go.osu.edu/shapiroj.

The Furniss Award commemorates the founding director of the Mershon Center, Edgar S. Furniss, and is given annually to an author whose first book makes an exceptional contribution to the study of national and international security. Previous winners include John Mearsheimer, Barry Posen, and Stephen Walt.

The Terrorist's Dilemma is the first book to systematically examine the great variation in how terrorist groups are structured. Employing a broad range of agency theory, historical case studies, and terrorists' own internal documents, Shapiro discusses the core managerial challenges that terrorists face and illustrates how their political goals interact with the operational environment to push them to organize in particular ways.

Shapiro provides a historically informed explanation for why some groups have little hierarchy, while others resemble miniature firms, complete with line charts and written disciplinary codes. Looking at groups in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America, he highlights how consistent and widespread the terrorist's dilemma -- balancing the desire to maintain control with the need for secrecy -- has been since the 1880s.

Through an analysis of more than 100 terrorist autobiographies he shows how prevalent bureaucracy has been, and he utilizes a cache of internal documents from al Qaeda in Iraq to outline why this deadly group used so much paperwork to handle its people.

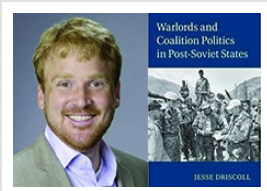
Tracing the strategic interaction between terrorist leaders and their operatives, Shapiro closes with a series of comparative case studies, indicating that the differences in how groups in the same conflict approach their dilemmas are consistent with an agency theory perspective.

Shapiro's active research projects at Princeton study political violence, economic and political development in conflict zones, security policy, and urban conflict. He co-directs the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project. His research has been published or is forthcoming in broad range of academic and policy journals including *American Journal of Political Science*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *International Organization*, *International Security*, *Journal of Political Economy*, and *World Politics* as well as a number of edited volumes. *The Terrorist's Dilemma* is his first book.

Shapiro is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations, an associate editor of *World Politics*, a faculty fellow of the Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies, a research fellow at the Center for Economic Research in Pakistan, an associate fellow of the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives, and served in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve.

He holds a Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University.

FEATURED NEWS



DRISCOLL WINS FURNISS AWARD FOR 'WARLORDS AND COALITION POLITICS'

The breakup of the Soviet Union was unexpected and unexpectedly peaceful. Although a third of the new states fell into violent conflict, anarchy was soon brought under control. What explai ...

[READ MORE ...](#)



YARHI-MILO'S 'KNOWING THE ADVERSARY' WINS FURNISS BOOK AWARD

States are more likely to engage in military buildups and pre-emptive strikes if they think their adversaries pose a tangible threat. But how do they make that determination? Keren ...

[READ MORE ...](#)

MERSHON CENTER

- About Us
- Research
- News
- Events
- Grants
- People
- Publications
- Contact

ARTS AND SCIENCES

- College of Arts and Sciences
- Academics
- About the College
- News and Events
- Research
- Arts and Culture
- Alumni

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Office of International Affairs
- Center for African Studies
- Center for Latin American Studies
- Center for Slavic & East European Studies
- East Asian Studies Center
- Institute for Chinese Studies
- Institute for Japanese Studies
- Institute for Korean Studies
- Middle East Studies Center

RESOURCES

- Events Calendar
- E-Newsletters
- Annual Reports
- Fact Sheet
- Experts List
- Faculty Books
- Furniss Award
- Knowledge Bank



© 2013 Mershon Center for International Security Studies – College of Arts and Sciences

1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

Phone: 614-292-1681 | Fax: 614-292-2407

[Request an alternate format of this page.](#)

