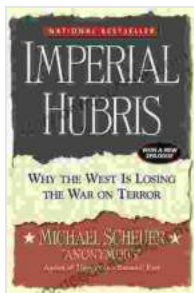


# Why the West Is Losing the War on Terror

The War on Terror, launched by the United States in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, has been a costly and protracted conflict. Despite trillions of dollars spent and countless lives lost, the West has failed to achieve its stated goal of defeating terrorism.



## Imperial Hubris: Why the West Is Losing the War on Terror by Michael Scheuer

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1113 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 336 pages



There are a number of reasons for the West's failure. First, the War on Terror has been based on a flawed understanding of terrorism. Terrorism is not simply a military problem that can be solved with bombs and bullets. It is also a political problem, rooted in grievances such as poverty, inequality, and injustice.

Second, the War on Terror has been counterproductive. By invading and occupying Muslim-majority countries, the West has created more terrorists than it has killed. The resentment and anger that this has generated has

made it more difficult to build partnerships with Muslim communities and to address the underlying causes of terrorism.

Third, the War on Terror has damaged the West's moral authority. By torturing prisoners, conducting extrajudicial killings, and undermining the rule of law, the West has alienated potential allies and made it more difficult to convince people that its cause is just.

The War on Terror has been a failure. It has not made the West safer, and it has created more problems than it has solved. It is time for a new approach, one that is based on a better understanding of terrorism and that focuses on addressing the underlying causes of conflict.

### **A flawed understanding of terrorism**

The War on Terror has been based on the assumption that terrorism is primarily a military problem. This assumption has led to a focus on military solutions, such as airstrikes, drone attacks, and ground invasions.

However, military solutions alone cannot defeat terrorism. Terrorism is a complex phenomenon that is rooted in a variety of factors, including poverty, inequality, and injustice.

A more effective approach to countering terrorism would focus on addressing the underlying causes of conflict. This would involve investing in education, economic development, and good governance. It would also involve working to resolve political conflicts and to promote human rights.

### **A counterproductive approach**

The War on Terror has been counterproductive because it has created more terrorists than it has killed. The invasion of Iraq in 2003, for example,

led to the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The US-led intervention in Libya in 2011 also contributed to the rise of ISIS. And the ongoing war in Afghanistan has created a safe haven for terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda.

By invading and occupying Muslim-majority countries, the West has created a sense of injustice and resentment that has made it more difficult to build partnerships with Muslim communities and to address the underlying causes of terrorism.

### **A damaged moral authority**

The War on Terror has damaged the West's moral authority. The use of torture, extrajudicial killings, and indefinite detention has undermined the rule of law and alienated potential allies.

The West's support for authoritarian regimes in the Middle East has also damaged its credibility. By propping up dictatorships, the West has made it more difficult to promote democracy and human rights in the region.

The war in Iraq, in particular, has been a disaster for the West's moral authority. The invasion of Iraq was based on false pretenses, and the war has led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians.

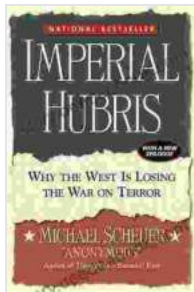
### **A new approach**

The War on Terror has been a failure. It has not made the West safer, and it has created more problems than it has solved. It is time for a new approach, one that is based on a better understanding of terrorism and that focuses on addressing the underlying causes of conflict.

A new approach to countering terrorism would focus on the following:

- Investing in education, economic development, and good governance
- Working to resolve political conflicts and to promote human rights
- Building partnerships with Muslim communities
- Ending the use of torture, extrajudicial killings, and indefinite detention
- Withdrawing from military interventions in the Middle East

A new approach to countering terrorism will not be easy, but it is necessary. The War on Terror has failed, and it is time for a new strategy.



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**Terror** by Michael Scheuer

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