

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910812159403321
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Titolo	Deterring rational fanatics // Alex S. Wilner
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : , : University of Pennsylvania Press, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	0-8122-9204-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (264 p.)
Disciplina	363.325/17
Soggetti	Terrorism - Prevention Deterrence (Strategy)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Chapter 1. Introduction -- Chapter 2. Deterrence Theory: Exploring Core Concepts -- Chapter 3. Deterring Terrorism: Contemporary Debates -- Chapter 4. Targeted Killings: Theory, Practice, and Consequence -- Chapter 5. Targeting the Taliban: Coercive Lessons from Afghanistan -- Chapter 6. Moving Ahead with Deterrence Theory -- Appendix: Research Design and Methodology -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Cold War-era strategic thinking was driven by the belief that individuals, organizations, and foreign states could be deterred from offensive action by the threat of reprisal. That assurance was shaken with the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; suddenly, it seemed that no threat was powerful enough to deter individuals or organizations that valued political objectives over their own lives and the lives of their members. More than a decade later, new research and theory are bringing deterrence back into currency as a viable counterterrorism strategy. Alex S. Wilner updates deterrence theory for conflict in the twenty-first century, arguing for its value against challengers such as rogue states, cyber warriors, and transnational terrorist organizations. Deterring Rational Fanatics provides a full-scale discussion of deterrence theory concepts and controversies, assessing the utility of relying on the logic of deterrence and coercion to counter contemporary terrorism. In particular, targeted killings directed against

the Taliban of Afghanistan provide a vivid illustration of the impact deterrence can have on militant behavior: precision strikes that eliminate militant leaders represent a significant cost to planning and participating in political violence, a cost that can coerce, manipulate, and alter behavior. Though deterrence theory is not a panacea for terrorism, insurgency, or militancy, it can serve as a strategic guide for state responses; as Wilner shows, terrorist violence can indeed be deterred.
