

Lesson 27:
Domestic Counterterrorism I:
Evolution of US Counterterrorism Policy and "The Wall"

Readings:

1. National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States. [*The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States*](#). (New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2004): 71-107, 198-214.
2. PBS Frontline, "[*The Tools of Counterterrorism*](#)", posted October 16, 2003. Review the laws and policies on this webpage, then read the document linked on the right entitled "[*The Role of the Judiciary in the War on Terrorism*](#)."
3. Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), [*Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act*](#), updated 10 Nov 2005: read the section entitled "[*Overview of FISA*](#)."

Study Questions:

1. How did the US Government's espionage and domestic surveillance authorities and practices change in the early 1970s, and why?
2. What is "the wall?" What were its causes? Its effects? To what degree were the concerns that contributed to the wall legitimate and important?
3. How did US counterterrorism policy evolve through the 1960s, 70s, 80s, and 90s?
4. What is the CIA Counterterrorist Center (CTC) and what does it do?
5. How has the White House managed counterterrorism policy over time? What is the Counterterrorism Security Group (CSG) and what does it do?
6. How did the George W. Bush Administration approach the terrorist threat prior to 9/11?
7. What is the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, and what does it do?
8. What is the FISA Court, and how does it function?
9. How important is it to align US counterterrorism law and counterterrorism law in other countries?