

## BOOK REVIEW

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### A Review of "Protection Against Bombs and Incendiaries"

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**REFERENCE:** Pike, E. A., *Protection Against Bombs and Incendiaries*, Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1972, 87 pages, \$6.50.

This is an extremely short book, which is broken down into three basic sections. No reviewer who has been involved in law enforcement can make light of the terror and dangers caused by those who utilize the bomb and incendiary devices to achieve their purpose. However, the author of this book has obviously spent more time worrying about the problem than attempting to create a solution. His description of the threat is certainly as full of rhetoric as the threat itself.

To state that "the explosive and incendiary violence that has thus far stormed through America . . ." and to state "the threat of violence is bold, bristling and brazen in the grandiose rhetoric of the political extremist," as well as the use of such terms as "chilling" and "overpowering," is to take a bad situation and paint it much worse than it is.

The author continues in his personal essay until he reaches the second segment of his text, the description of explosive and incendiary devices, which is accompanied by several photographs. These descriptions and photographs do not represent a contribution to the literary field, since they are repeats of what can be found in several other texts, some of which were published by the same publishing company.

The author finally reaches, in the third segment of his text, the point of giving advice to those in business, industry, and educational institutions who have need to protect their respective organizations from bombs and incendiary devices. At this point, due to the incomplete manner of handling this segment (indeed, it is a subject very difficult to broach by way of text alone), the author has failed to contribute to the buyer of the book. The author would have been better off to have published a one-page paper summed up as: When in doubt, call your local law enforcement agency and they will see to it that the proper expertise is focused on your specific problem, be it hospital, educational institution, or industry.

For those who are interested in the problems of protecting private and public institutions from the terrorist who utilizes bombs and incendiary devices, this text is not nearly as useful as the cover might indicate. Serious consideration of this subject will require the seeking out of trained specialists and additional study in texts that deal in greater depth with the subject.

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