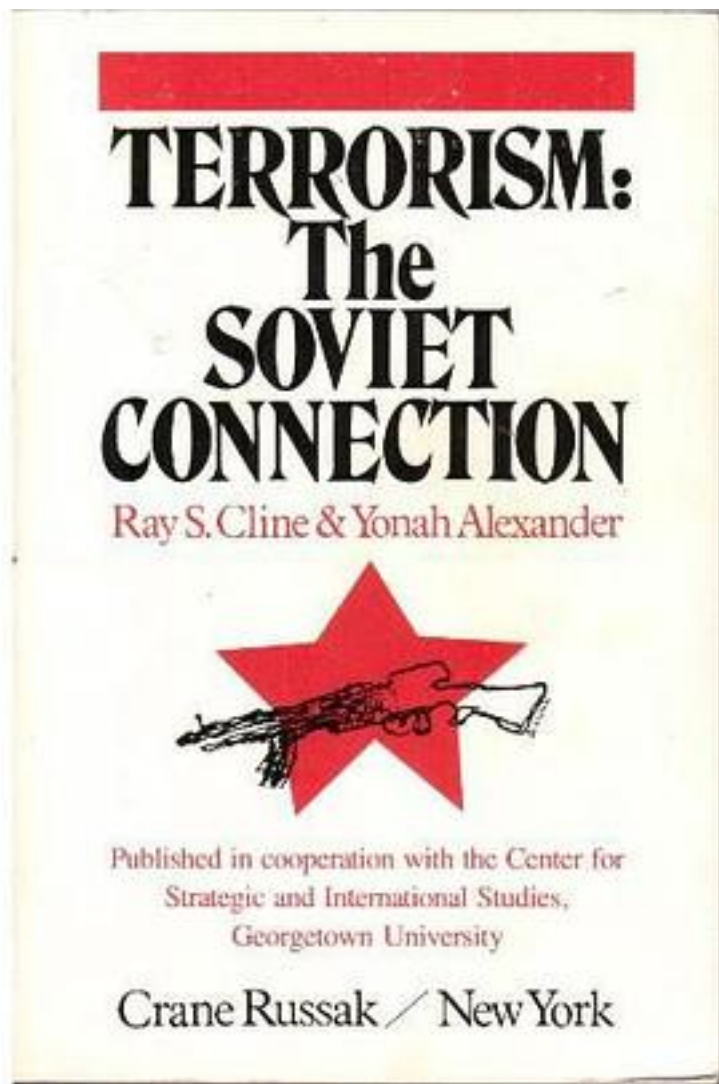


Terrorism



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As this volume was in preparation, an incident revealed in stark-est terms the clash of two very different cultures, Soviet and American, on the propriety of resort to violence. A political and ethical gulf was never more clearly delineated than in the world reaction to the deliberate Soviet shooting down of a Korean airliner with 269 civilians aboard, including 61 Americans, at 0326 Korean time on September 1, 1983. The regularly scheduled passenger aircraft had strayed off course and passed through Soviet airspace over Kamchatka Peninsula and then over Sakhalin Island. The Korean pilot, apparently unaware of any navigational error, reported to Tokyo at 0323 Korean time that he was on the planned track northeast of Hokkaido, Japan. After more than two hours of radar tracking of this aircraft and a near approach to it by a Soviet interceptor aircraft from Sakhalin, Soviet authorities gave instructions to fire a missile at the Korean plane as it was leaving Sakhalin and approaching the Sea of Japan. According to intercepted voice transmissions, the Soviet pilot reported at 0326 Korean time, "The target is destroyed. I am breaking off attack. " The aircraft disappeared from radar screens at 16,000 feet altitude three minutes later. Everyone aboard was killed in the plane's plunge to the sea. Despite the reaction of horror from the United States and most of the rest of the world, the Soviet Union has refused to recognize any error in this destruction of innocent human lives, because the aircraft had crossed the "sacred borders" of Soviet territory.

This concept of the political rights of the state overriding hu-

man life portends more and more politically inspired violence of the kind Americans find hard to believe. Revolutionary violence and guerrilla wars have spread to every continent in the past decade, just as a close reading of Soviet doctrinal literature indi-

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