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Paweł Semmler, *Rosja we krwi.*
Terroryzm dwóch dekad

[Russia in Blood. Terrorism over two decades]
(in Polish)

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The book is a successful attempt at characterising contemporary terrorist threats in the Russian Federation. Not only is the title of the book unique, but also its content: separate chapters contain descriptions of terrorist attacks which took place in Russia. Well-organised information provides the readers with an opportunity to learn about the main terrorist organizations and their leaders. Paweł Sammler identifies socio-political and frequently military events acting as triggers. Thus, he focuses on the greatest threats to Russia, which are the North Caucasus, Syria, and Uzbekistan. The Author outlines the causes of the conflict and indicates potential sources of danger. He pays special attention to the assassins' experience acquired at training camps for terrorists, and through direct involvement in preparing and carrying out terrorist attacks outside Russia's borders. By doing so, he points to the sources of new combat techniques, skills in operating state-of-the-art equipment, but also to the terrorist underworld connections.

Worthy of attention are logical presumptions considered by the Author and suggesting other, often surprising, leads. Precise and detailed descriptions of the struggle undertaken at the frontlines of the fight against terrorism point to close

connections between that struggle and the Russian secret services and the military in this respect. This paradox perfectly fits into Moscow's policies frequently leading to sacrificing its citizens in pursuit of the planned success; it also serves as an explanation of a kind as to why a veil has been drawn over such affairs which have no place in the media. Owing to this, the book is an invaluable piece of work filling the existing gap in the wholistic approach to the issue of terrorism in the Russian Federation.

Paweł Semmler's book makes us realise that despite the seemingly uncontrolled flow of information in the 21st century, there is the biggest country in the world, in which information can travel across its borders extremely rarely. By meticulously reconstructing the most insolent terrorist attacks, the Author searches for the answers to a question about their grounds and circumstances. He sets them in a peculiar mosaic of ethnic disagreements, cultural differences, and not infrequently, the border delineation, connecting the last issue with the Kremlin's policy.

The text contains basic statistical data and a description of the types of the terrorist attacks carried out in the past two decades in the Russian Federation. One of the strongest points of the reviewed book is a wide array of facts which allow us to place the behind-the-scenes struggle for power, prestige, and public opinion's acceptance in the context of contemporary history. Paweł Semmler makes an in-depth analysis of the last two decades, urging the reader to think about the future.

The book is of high scientific and academic merit and can be used as a valuable textbook in educating (and self-educating) anyone interested in worldwide terrorism. The issue of terrorist attacks in Russia is still a largely uncharted area in specialist literature about fighting terrorism and provides both an excellent research subject for experts in Security Sciences, as well as a topic for academic conferences. Paweł Semmler's work is one of the few publications telling the untold stories, and despite the fact that it is not the easiest, it reads with pleasure because the Author encourages us to reflect upon and critically evaluate the described events, which is the most essential skill in academic education.

Not only should this book be read by academic teachers and students, but also by readers who find combating terrorism and behind-the-scenes plotting close to their hearts, and those who are interested in evens over which a veil has been drawn. What is particularly important is the fact that the problems outlined in this work are still relevant, and they can develop in horrible ways the human race cannot foresee.