Acknowledgements

This book has been a long time in the making. I am grateful to Edward Elgar Publishers for commissioning the work and for their patience in allowing me time to submit it.

Special thanks are extended to Verso Books for their permission to cite from Bruce Lawrence (ed). (2005), Messages to the World: The Statements of Osama bin Laden, James Howarth (trans.), London: Verso Books.

During the course of its completion there are many individuals who have assisted me along the way. Their comments, kindness and other contributions have greatly improved some of my ideas, arguments and insights. Nonetheless, I bear full responsibility for any errors in fact and interpretation that may occur in this volume.

My greatest thanks are to my colleagues at the Global Terrorism Research Centre (GTReC), Monash University. I have had the honour of being the Director of this vibrant, dynamic, productive and amiable centre that nurtures scholarship since 2007. I appreciate the support and am humbled by the trust my colleagues have in me. GTReC colleagues past and present have encouraged and challenged me on many of the points I raise in the following pages. Their enthusiasm and support have been unwavering throughout this project and my Directorship and I am henceforth grateful to them.

In particular, Gary Bouma, Greg Barton, Sayed Khatab, Muhammad Bakashmar, Ben MacQueen, Luke Howie, Anna Halafoff, David Wright-Neville, Bill Kelly, Waleed Aly, Susan Carland, Rachel Woodlock, Virginie Andre, Ela Ogru and Gerry Nagtzaam have been my strongest supporters throughout this project. Especially, Gary spent hours with me over coffee when the project started, discussing matters related to the book and always pushing me to sharpen my points of view. His constant querying of whether or not I had hit the send key helped expedite the process. Sayed, Muhammad, Susan, Rachel and Waleed gave me great advice on various theological matters. Ben MacQueen, GTReC’s Deputy Director and Greg Barton, Director of the Centre for Islam and the Modern World (CIMOW) provided excellent scholarly counsel and have assisted me with some leadership burdens to facilitate bringing the
volume to this stage. Dave’s immense knowledge of terrorism and politics, and readiness to be a sounding board also benefitted me. I am also grateful to Gerry Nagtzaam for his patience throughout the final stages of completing this book. Now I can start my contributions to our planned co-authored book. Virginie and Ela’s contributions of tracking materials, providing teaching assistance, helping to spruce up the manuscript and their unflagging friendship, are greatly appreciated.

Others in the GTReC (and Politics) family have also assisted and supported me in various ways. In particular, Derya Agkuner, John Cooney, Jeremy Dwyer, Phil Gregory, Jo Hart, Alex Phelan, Tania Raffass, Sarah Shirk and David Tittensor helped ease my teaching and other burdens.

GTReC is part of a vibrant and unique partnership between the academy, state and federal government, police and community counter-terrorism stakeholders. The Department of Premier and Cabinet, State Government of Victoria has been GTReC’s primary partner since 2006. Mark Duckworth, Jenny Cleeve and Leo Van Der Tooren have provided counsel and generosity to GTReC, and I value their friendship greatly. In addition, GTReC has had a long-standing relationship with Victoria Police. Senior Sgt Dr Gaetano Joe Ilardi wears two hats as both scholar and police officer, and I have greatly benefited from his insights as an academic and counter-terrorism practitioner. In addition, I am grateful to the support and kindness of Assistant Commissioner Stephen Fontana, Superintendent Peter Keogh, Commander Dennis Henry and Dr Hussein Tahiri. Other members on the GTReC Advisory Board, Ambassador Bill Paterson, Australia’s Counter-Terrorism Ambassador, Dr Hass Dellal of the Australian Multicultural Foundation, and Monash academics Professor Rae Frances, Dean of Arts, Professor Jude McCulloch, Head, School of Political and Social Inquiry, Professor James Walter, Head of Politics and Professor Marika Vicziany – who has just stepped down as Director of the Monash Asia Institute – also provided me with strong support throughout this project.

GTReC, the Department of Premier and Cabinet, and Victoria Police are partners with the Australian Federal Police and Department of Justice, State Government of Victoria on the Australian Research Council (ARC)-funded Project ‘Understanding Terrorism in an Australian Context: Radicalisation, De-Radicalisation and Counter-Radicalisation’. ARC support for this book is gratefully acknowledged. Additionally, I am grateful to both the Australian Federal Police and Victoria Police for granting me access to the transcripts of the Listening Device and Telephone Intercept recordings of the terrorist cell broken up by Operation Pendennis in 2005. Their kindness in permitting me to analyse
these materials has greatly added to my knowledge of the inner workings of terrorist cells plotting attacks. Nonetheless, the views that I present in this volume are my own and in no way reflect those of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria Police, Department of Justice, and Australian Federal Police. A Victoria Police financial contribution to the project for teaching relief enabled me to conduct the research on the transcripts that appear in Chapter 5.

I am grateful to the project team for their enthusiasm for this book. Ros King, our project manager, keeps the ship afloat. Greg Barton, Joe Ilardi, Simon Moss and Bill Polychronopoulos are collegial co-investigators. We have the honour of working with a talented group of young researchers, all of whom have been very supportive of my book. I wish to express my thanks to Rosleenda Ali, Muhammad Bakashmar, Kate Barrelle, Shandon Harris-Hogan, Muhammad Iqbal, Patrick Kimunguyi, Bruce McFarlane, Debra Smith and Andrew Zammit. Special thanks also go to Chris Heffelfinger who was a visiting scholar with us on this project in 2010 and whose insights have enhanced my thoughts on various terrorism-related matters.

Members of Monash University’s School of Political and Social Inquiry (past and present) have also shown me various kindnesses during this book’s journey. In particular, I am grateful to Professor Denise Cuthbert, former Head of School for permitting me research leave to work on the volume. On other matters I appreciate the support of Nel Halloran, Sue Stevenson, Jenny Williams, Tommy Fung, Irfan Ahmad and Edwina Goh. Additionally, School of Political and Social Inquiry funding assisted the book’s completion.

This volume began to take shape during a sabbatical leave in 2006. I am grateful to the Monash University Arts Faculty Outside Studies Program Committee for awarding me this time to conduct research. During this period I spent time at the Political Science Department, University of Rhode Island (my alma mater). I wish to thank Professor Maureen Moakley for permitting me to work at the department and especially extend my gratitude to Professor Art Stein who permitted me to share some of my ideas with his graduate classes.

Being based at the University of Rhode Island enabled me to spend time with my family when I left the library. I am grateful to my parents, Peter and Janet, my sister Melyssa and niece Sabrina for their hospitality and for making me feel welcome back in my old environs. The semester was not just a productive period but also one of joyous reunion.

My family and friends in Melbourne deserve special thanks. My wife Michelle has been encouraging throughout the time it took to complete this volume. I am eternally appreciative of her for her friendship, love
and support. My mother-in-law Iris has constantly kept me motivated asking for progress reports, and I am grateful to my father-in-law Omero for his magnificent Thursday-night meals. Salwa Aly, Martin Day, James and Johanna Harvey, Anne Rodriguez, Graham Slater and Lesley Whitelaw have all shown interest in my progress on the book, and I appreciate their concern.

This work is dedicated to four people who have influenced its completion in different ways. Brother Lawrence Goyette, my fifth-grade social studies teacher at Cranston-Johnston Catholic Regional School was the first teacher to permit me to conduct independent study projects. He instilled creativity and reflection in his students and his pedagogy was years ahead of its time. That he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate for his contributions to education is well deserved and not surprising. Alan McGillivray, my history teacher at Johnston Senior High School initiated my interest in the study of Islam in his Afro-Asian Studies course, and taught me the value of using an eclectic range of sources to develop deeper understandings of political and social matters, beyond conventional academic books and journals. My approach to understanding politics as a phenomenon that exists in all forms of social interaction, not just in halls of government began in his classroom. Stephen White, my PhD supervisor has been my greatest academic influence since I attended his seminar ‘The Comparative Study of Communist States’ while I was a study-abroad student at Glasgow University in 1986. His knowledge, erudition and enthusiasm for his profession have made him my academic role model for more than a quarter century. Among Stephen’s greatest strengths was the ability to identify elements of diversity within supposedly monolithic political entities. My approach in this book bears his imprint. This book is also dedicated to the memory of my wife Michelle’s grandmother, Elvira. Her house provided Michelle with a loving nurturing environment while she was growing up and a sanctuary for me where I could think, write and reflect in peace upon the themes contained in this book, away from the administrative tedium that characterizes the modern university. Mille grazie, Nonna.