

was in jail, and the organization was bankrupt. It eventually changed its name to Aleph but ceased to be involved in terrorism.

How did Aum Shinrikyo end as a terrorist organization? This chapter argues that efforts by Japanese police and intelligence services were fundamental to ending Aum Shinrikyo as a terrorist organization. They conducted widespread surveillance and penetration of Aum Shinrikyo, made hundreds of arrests, and adopted a range of legal measures that crippled the organization's financial base. They also discredited the group's ideology, leading to a mass exodus of supporters. In short, policing was an effective strategy against Aum Shinrikyo.

In examining Aum Shinrikyo, this chapter is organized into three sections. The first examines Aum Shinrikyo's evolution and goals. The second section examines how policing was effective in ending Aum Shinrikyo as a terrorist organization. And the third section offers conclusions on policing and the end of terrorist groups.

Aum Shinrikyo's Ideology

Shōkō Asahara, a blind former yoga teacher, founded Aum Shinrikyo in the late 1980s. The group's ideology was grounded largely in Buddhism. But it had a strong mixture of assorted eastern and western mystical beliefs and drew from the works of the 16th-century French apothecary Nostradamus. Asahara preached that there were a number of levels of consciousness that a member could reach through his teachings. But only one person, Asahara himself, had attained the highest level of consciousness and existed in the state of Nirvana. At the core of Asahara's worldview was a great cloud casting its shadow over the future: the specter of a world catastrophe unparalleled in human history. Although World War II had been disastrous to Japan, especially with the nuclear weapons dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it paled in comparison with what Asahara described as World War III. The term that Asahara chose for this cataclysmic event was *Armageddon*.

In 1989, for example, Asahara published a major religious treatise on Armageddon called *The Destruction of the World*. In it, he described a worldwide calamity based on a purported war between Japan and the