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**Homeland Security & Cybersecurity**


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**Homeland Security**

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**Lesson 4**  
**What is Homeland Security?**

Rick White, Ph.D.  
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Springs



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**Homeland Security**

**What is homeland security?**



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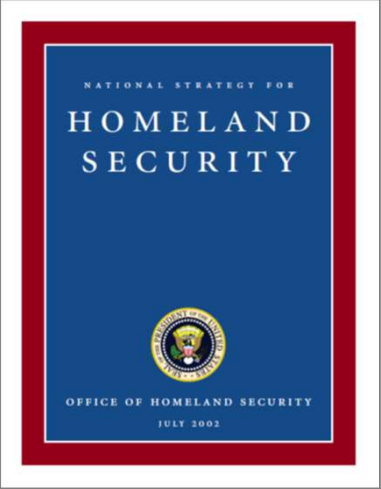
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**Homeland Security**


*"A concerted national effort to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism, and minimize the damage and recover from attacks that do occur."*

**2002 National Strategy for Homeland Security**



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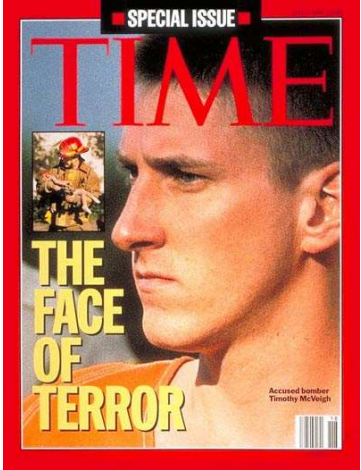
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**Homeland Security**

- Accordingly, homeland security was about "terrorism".
- In fact, if you ask most people today, they will say that homeland security is about "terrorism".
- But homeland security is not about terrorism; certainly it's a concern, but it's not the only concern.**



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**Homeland Security**

*“Acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State, that appear to be **intended to intimidate or coerce** a civilian population; influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping.”*

**Title 18 S2331 USC**


**in·tim·i·date**  
 /ɪnˈtɪməˌdaɪ/  
 verb  
 frighten or overawe (someone), especially in order to make them do what one wants.  
 “He tries to intimidate his rivals.”  
 synonyms: frighten, menace, terrify, scare, terrorize, cow, dragoon, subdue; [More](#)

**co·erce**  
 /kōˈɜrs/  
 verb  
 persuade (an unwilling person) to do something by using force or threats.  
 “they were coerced into silence”  
 synonyms: pressure, pressurize, press, push, constrain; [More](#)

- obtain (something) by using force or threats.  
 “their confessions were allegedly coerced by torture”

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**Homeland Security**

- By definition, terrorism is a crime distinguished by motive; that motive being to coerce action on the part of government.
- However, as we have noted, **the initial concern about homeland security began with the Tokyo subway attacks and the threat of WMD attack by non-state actors.**



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- In subsequent reports by both the Gilmore and Hart-Rudman Commissions, **the two notions were conflated**, and “terrorism” became the shorthand description for WMD attack by non-state actors.
- The confusion is understandable as the Tokyo subway attacks, Oklahoma City Bombing, and 9/11 were all driven by terrorist motives, the desire to coerce government.

**con·flate**  
 /kənˈflāt/ ⓘ  
 verb


combine (two or more texts, ideas, etc.) into one.  
 “the urban crisis conflates a number of different economic and social issues”  
 synonyms: **mix, blend, fuse, unite, integrate**  
 “the plot gets weighed down when the writers conflate too many issues into one episode”






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### Homeland Security

- However, the terrorist motive is not the only motive for inflicting catastrophic destruction.
- Indeed, no motive is required at all** as the nation was reminded less than three years after the formation of DHS when **Hurricane Katrina** struck the Gulf Coast leaving 1,464 people dead in its wake.



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Hurricane Katrina in August/September 2005 was a reminder that **nature too can create WMD effects, indiscriminate and without malice.**



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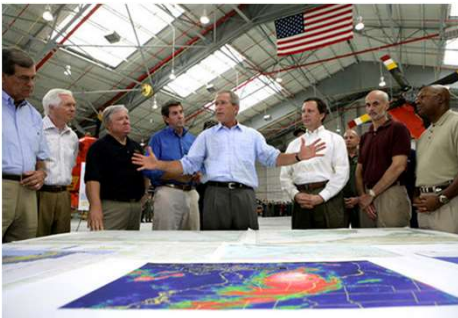
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- Hurricane Katrina forced an overhaul of the new DHS to take into account the destructive effects of natural hazards in addition to terrorism.
- This recognition was incorporated into the **current definition of homeland security when it was released in the 2010 Quadrennial Homeland Security Review.**



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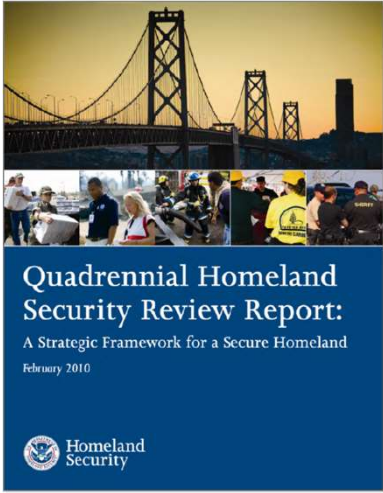
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**Homeland Security**


*"a concerted national effort to ensure a homeland that is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards where American interests, aspirations, and way of life can thrive."*

**2010 Quadrennial Homeland Security Review**



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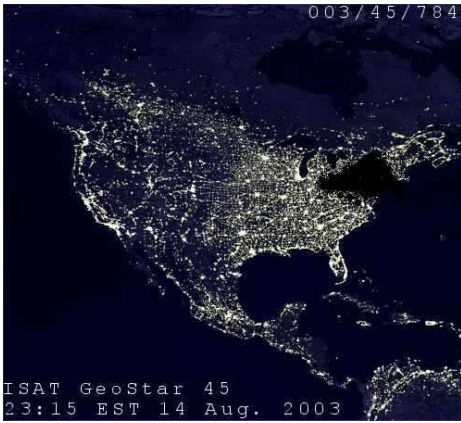
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**Homeland Security**

- The current definition identifies only terrorism and natural hazards as potential means of inflicting catastrophic destruction.
- **By this definition, the 2003 Northeast Blackout is not a homeland security concern; nor would shutting down the North American Grid, unless a terrorist motive could be attributed.**



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- The current definition's focus on means is too limiting.
- It ignores and diverts attention from other potential causes.



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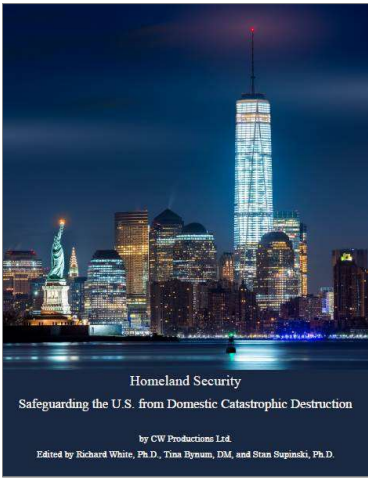
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**Homeland Security**


*"Safeguarding the United States  
from domestic catastrophic  
destruction."*

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**Working Definition**  
**Homeland Security**



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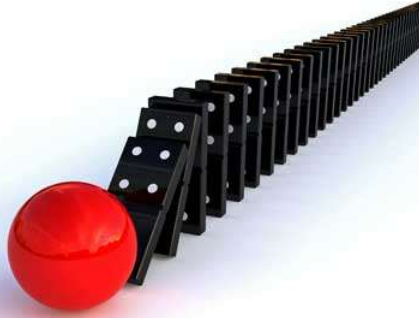
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### Homeland Security

- It is direct because it identifies **“domestic catastrophic destruction”** as the central concern of homeland security.
- The focus is shifted from “cause” to “effect”**
- Yet, it is not restricted by specifying either the cause or scale of destruction.



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### Homeland Security

- “Safeguarding”** recognizes that **no defense is invulnerable to a determined attacker, and you can’t stop a natural disaster.**
- Accordingly, “safeguarding” encompasses actions across the four phases of any catastrophe:
  1. Prevent
  2. Protect
  3. Respond
  4. Recover



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- Most importantly, the word “safeguarding” implies that **nothing is ever completely safe.**
- **Everything is a matter of risk,** and all measure taken before and after a catastrophe entail risk management.



A black silhouette of a balance scale. The left pan is lower and contains the word 'SAFETY' in red. The right pan is higher and contains the word 'RISK' in red.

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**Conclusion**

Questions?



A large, glossy blue sphere with a white question mark in the center.

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