Contemporary religious terrorism is not a "new terrorism," but instead displays similar features to previous forms of terrorism. Torbjørn Kveberg asserts that "the true change in the new terrorists falls from the fact that religion now plays an active role in many, if not all, aspects of a group's activities."[6] However, so-called old, secular terrorism has not been strictly secular in reality. In Northern Ireland, the IRA and the Ulster Volunteer Force were shaped by sectarian divisions between Protestant and Catholic segments of the population. Such scholarship will hopefully force people to question their governments' counter-terrorism policy and their role in perpetuating terrorism globally. Bibliography: Bin Laden, Osama, ‘Full Text: Bin Laden’s ‘Letter to America’, The Guardian, (2002). danger of the "new" terrorism in the 1990s and therefore failing to prevent the disaster of 9/11. Knowledge of the "old" or traditional terrorism is sometimes considered irrelevant, at best, and obsolete and anachronistic, even harmful, at worst. It also raises serious questions about the continued relevance of much of the conventional wisdom on terrorism particularly as it pertains to potential future terrorist use of WMD" (pp. 204-205). He argued that assumptions that terrorism might be...
restrained might still apply to most secular terrorists, they appear to be dangerously anachronistic with respect to religious terrorists (p. 205). If a new explanation of terrorism is necessary, what are the puzzles that the "old" paradigm cannot solve? Further, the 'new terrorism' thesis rests upon the claim that terrorist organisations are increasingly networked globally. Clearly identifiable leaderships are being overtaken by loosely held together trans-national agreements between franchises, where there is no unitary or clearly defined leadership or central headquarters (Crenshaw, 2000: 411). This idea of conflict identifiable by its fluidity and intangibility has been developed most coherently by RAND in the concept of 'netwar' (see Arquilla and Ronfeldt, 1993). Netwar is utilised, crucially, to encapsulate low intensity conflict that is Without being asked a question about terrorism, U.S. President George W. Bush referred to "terrorism" (or a variant of the word) twenty-two times in a 2004 televised interview.3 International terrorism is frequently cited by world leaders as the greatest threat to Western democracies, a claim made before 4 and after September 11, 2001.5 Notwithstanding the great concern about terrorism, it is most often said that no universally (or even widely) accepted definition of terrorism exists at international law.6 Since at least the 1920s and. This Article examines the evolution of terrorism as a legal concept at international law. The use of civil aviation aircraft to destroy the World Trade Center towers in New York and