

Delve Deeper into *Better This World*

A Film by Kelly Duane de la Vega and Katie Galloway

This multi-media resource list, compiled by P. Michael McCulley of the San Diego Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming POV documentary *Better This World*.

The story of Bradley Crowder and David McKay, who were accused of intending to firebomb the 2008 Republican National Convention, is a dramatic tale of idealism, loyalty, crime and betrayal. *Better This World* follows the radicalization of these boyhood friends from Midland, Texas, under the tutelage of revolutionary activist Brandon Darby. The results: eight homemade bombs, multiple domestic terrorism charges and a high-stakes entrapment defense hinging on the actions of a controversial FBI informant. *Better This World* goes to the heart of the war on terror and its impact on civil liberties and political dissent in post-9/11 America.

ADULT NONFICTION

Domestic Terrorism in the United States

Bartosiewicz, Petra. "To Catch A Terrorist." *Harper's Magazine*, August 2011.

<http://harpers.org/archive/2011/08/0083545>

Bartosiewicz provides a compelling account of the FBI's investigative apparatus post-9/11.

Office of the Law Revision Counsel. "United States Code." <http://143.231.180.80/browse/title18/part1/chapter113B>

The United States Code is a consolidation and codification by subject matter of the general and permanent laws of the United States. Chapter 113B outlines laws relating to terrorism, including legal definitions and criminal penalties.

Potter, Will. *Green is the New Red: an Insider's Account of a Movement Under Siege*. San Francisco : City Lights Books, 2011. Potter reflects on the FBI's response to radical environmentalism with an emphasis on the questionable use of the term "eco-terrorism."

Turchie, Terry and Kathleen Puckett. *Hunting the American Terrorist: The FBI's War on Homegrown Terror*. New York: History Publishing Company, 2007.

Written by the former Deputy of the Counterterrorism Division of the FBI and an FBI Special Agent, *Hunting the American Terrorist* is a landmark book in counterterrorism and the investigative techniques of the FBI.

The FBI

Eichenwald, Kurt. *The Informant: A True Story*. New York: Broadway Books, 2000.

Based on a late-1990s case against the conglomerate Archer Daniels Midland, investigate writer Kurt Eichenwald gives us a page-turning real-life thriller that features deadpan FBI agents, crooked executives, idealistic lawyers, and shady witnesses with an addiction to intrigue.

Kessler, Ronald. *The Bureau: The Secret History of the FBI*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002.

An award-winning investigative reporter and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Inside the White House*, Robert Kessler presents the definitive history of the FBI and how they are combating terrorism today.

Natapoff, Alexandra. *Snitching: Criminal Informants and the Erosion of American Justice*. New York & London: NYU Press, 2009.

By delving into the secret world of criminal informants, *Snitching* explores the way American justice works.

Terrorists for the FBI Exclusive. *Mother Jones*.

September/October 2011 Issue. <http://motherjones.com/special-reports/2011/08/fbi-terrorist-informants>

This series of three articles is the result of a yearlong investigation by *Mother Jones* in conjunction with the University of California-Berkeley's Investigative Reporting Program, which is headed by Lowell Bergmann. Trevor Aaronson was the lead reporter; *Mother Jones* fellows Hamed Aleaziz and Lauren Ellis contributed additional research.

May, Gary. *The Informant: The FBI, the Ku Klux Klan, and the Murder of Viola Liuzzo*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2005.

A page-turning real-life thriller that features deadpan FBI agents, crooked executives, idealistic lawyers, and shady witnesses with an addiction to intrigue, *The Informant* tells an important and compelling story of power and betrayal in America

Gerdes, Louise I. *The Patriot Act: Opposing Viewpoints*. Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2005.

Gerdes debates the pros and cons of government surveillance under the Patriot Act.

U.S. Department of Justice. "The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Compliance with the Attorney General's Investigative Guidelines."

<http://www.justice.gov/oig/special/0509/final.pdf>

After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Department of Justice initiated a comprehensive review of four sets of the Attorney General's Investigative Guidelines that govern most aspects of the FBI authority to investigate crimes committed by individual criminals, criminal enterprises and groups, as well as those who may be threatening to commit crimes.

Withers, Ernest, Jack F. Hurley, Brooks Johnson and Daniel J. Wold. *Pictures Tell the Story: Ernest C. Withers Reflections in History*. Chrysler Museum of Art, 2000.

This collection spans the career of renowned civil rights photographer Ernest Withers who doubled as an FBI informant to spy on the civil rights movement.

Protest

Meyer, David. *The Politics of Protest: Social Movements in America*. USA: Oxford University Press, 2006.

The Politics of Protest offers both a historical overview and an analytical framework for understanding social movements and political protest in American politics.



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Welch, Michael. *Flag Burning: Moral Panic and the Criminalization of Protest*. Piscataway, NJ: Aldine Transaction, 2000.

This book critically examines legislative attempts to criminalize flag desecration, an act that has historically been seen as political expression and thus protected under the First Amendment.

Zinn, Howard. *Disobedience and Democracy: Nine Fallacies on Law and Order*. Cambridge, Mass: South End, 2002.

Howard Zinn examines the possibilities of nonviolent civil disobedience, strikes and protest.

First Amendment

Abrams, Floyd. *Speaking Freely: Trials of the First Amendment*. New York: Viking, 2005.

Abrams, an ardent legal defender of First Amendment rights for more than 30 years, brings immediacy to this analysis of challenges to free-speech rights.

Haynes, Charles C, Sam Chaltain, and Susan M. Glisson. *First Freedoms: A Documentary History of First Amendment Rights in America*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.

This book provides a broad overview of the First Amendment through the stories of historical men and women who fought to obtain and retain freedoms that came to be guaranteed under the First Amendment.

Plea bargaining

Fisher, George. *Plea Bargaining's Triumph: A History of Plea Bargaining in America*. Stanford University Press, 2004.

Though originally an interloper in a system of justice mediated by courtroom battles, plea bargaining now dominates American criminal justice. This book traces the evolution of plea bargaining from its beginnings in the early nineteenth century to its present pervasive role.

Thaman, Stephen. *World Plea Bargaining: Consensual Procedures and the Avoidance of the Full Criminal Trial*. Carolina Academic Press, 2010.

This book explores the world of plea bargaining in the international criminal tribunals and the

"translation" of American plea bargaining into the legal language of inquisitorial legal systems. The book concludes with a comprehensive analysis of the typologies of plea bargaining and their historical and doctrinal roots.

ADULT FICTION

Conrad, Joseph. *The Secret Agent: A Simple Tale*. Oxford World's Classics, 1907.

Conrad's 1907 novel about an anarchist plot to blow up the Royal Observatory at Greenwich is considered by many to be the classic novel for the post-9/11 age.

Coulter, Catherine. *The Cove*. Jove Books, 1996.

The Cove is the first book in Coulter's bestselling "FBI Suspense Thriller Series". This thriller tells the story of Sally Brainerd, daughter of murdered Armory St. John of Washington, D.C., seeking sanctuary, and FBI Special Agent James Quinlan, who's after her.

Wills, John M. *The Chicago Warrior Thriller Series*.

A former Chicago police officer and retired FBI agent, John M. Wills is a freelance writer and public speaker. He has written three novels that take place in The Windy City, creating The Chicago Warriors Thriller Series: *Chicago Warriors*, *Midnight Battles in the Windy City*; *Gripped by Fear*; and *Targeted*.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

***If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front* (Marshall Curry, 2011, 90 minutes)**

If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front explores two of America's most pressing issues — environmentalism and terrorism — by lifting the veil on a radical environmental group the FBI calls America's "number one domestic terrorism threat." Daniel McGowan, a former member of the Earth Liberation Front, faces life in prison for two multimillion-dollar arsons against Oregon timber companies. <http://www.pbs.org/pov/ifatreefalls>

***Mississippi Burning* (Alan Parker, 1988, 128 minutes)**

Two FBI agents with wildly different styles arrive in Mississippi to investigate the disappearance of some civil rights activists.

***Prison Town, USA* (Katie Galloway, 2007, 75 minutes)**

In the 1990s, at the height of the prison-building boom, a prison opened in rural America every 15 days. *Prison Town, USA* tells the story of Susanville, California, one small town that tries to resuscitate its economy by building a prison — with unanticipated consequences.

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/prisontown>

***Revolution '67* (Marylou Tibaldo-Bongiorno, 2007, 90 minutes)**

Revolution '67 is an illuminating account of events too often relegated to footnotes in U.S. history — the black urban rebellions of the 1960s. Focusing on the six-day Newark, N.J., outbreak in mid-July, *Revolution '67* reveals how the disturbances began as spontaneous revolts against poverty and police brutality and ended as fateful milestones in America's struggles over race and economic justice. <http://www.pbs.org/pov/revolution67/>

***The Enemy Within* (FRONTLINE | PBS, 2006, 53 minutes)**

The Enemy Within uses the Federal Government's reaction to a post-9/11 claim about possible Taliban activity in Lodi, California as a case study of America's response to the threat of domestic terrorism.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/enemywithin/>

***The Informant* (Steven Soderbergh, 2009, 108 minutes)**

Directed by Steven Soderbergh and starring Matt Damon, *The Informant* tells the story of Mark Whitacre, a biochemist and executive who supplies the FBI with hundreds of tapes that implicate his firm in a global price-fixing scheme.

