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

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.


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

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.

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.

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

Terrorists for the FBI Exclusive. Mother Jones.
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.

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

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.

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

The Politics of Protest offers both a historical overview and an analytical framework for understanding social movements and political protest in American politics.
Delve Deeper into Better This World
A Film by Kelly Duane de la Vega and Katie Galloway

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.

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

First Amendment


Plea bargaining


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.


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.

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.

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.

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.