Key International Issues: Conclusion

In conclusion, international law offers only a distressingly incomplete and inadequate series of responses to the problem of modern terrorism. Perhaps these deficiencies should not be surprising. As we've indicated, international law was not established to deal with non-state actors, and it responds only slowly to new kinds of challenges. Nonetheless, the tools of international law-- treaties, customary international law, resolutions of the Security Council-- they help shape the international community's response to the threat of 21st-century terrorism. And perhaps as the international community develops more experience with and more familiarity with the problem of terrorism, it will empower a more effective response in the future.