Discussion Board #2

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Author Note

Militarization of the Police Departments

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There is a steady and observable change when it comes to the recruitment of law enforcement in the United States. We are seeing that there is a steady increase in tactical armament in the US police forces. Some scholars like Diane Cecilia Weber has even as far as to claim that the SWAT teams have weapons that are used by the Navy SEALs and Army Rangers.

The question is why congress deems it necessary to do so. The mindset of a soldier is not suitable for active duty in a civilian police force. There have been many happenings like the Waco incident of 1993 that proved that the military mindset cannot mesh itself with the civilian one, even the cause may be a just one. To answer this question, this has not been a sudden change of heart at the part of the Congress. This change has occurred steadily after the start of the unipolar era and reached its peak after the incident of 9/11.

This gave rise to the images of the SWAT teams as the heroes of the society, where they are often found posing when heavy machine guns and military-like uniforms that attribute the sense that the police are also frontline men in the "War Against Terrorism". Another more practical reason is the rise of globalization. This has made sure that weapons and drugs can move more easily from state to state. To counter this threat, at least some sections of the police had to be "military standard" tough to dismantle these networks and make sure that there is no internal assets buildup in the US again that can create another havoc, as it was done on September 11, 2001.

# References

Warrior Cops: The Ominous Growth of Paramilitarism in American Police Departments. (1999). Retrieved 29 January 2020, from https://www.cato.org/publications/briefing-paper/warrior-cops-ominous-growth-paramilitarism-american-police-departments