TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 1
1. Statement of the Problem and Aims 1
2. Significance 2
3. Outline of Chapters 3

I. BACKGROUND AND CONCEPTS 5
1. Human Socialization and Perception 5
1.1 Context and Framing 8
1.2 The Impact of Culture 10
2. Threat Perception and Enemy Images 12
3. Dealing with Enemy Images 24
3.1 Socio-Political Psychological and Theological Dimensions 25
4. Areas of Tension between the U.S. and Germany 28
5. Summary 32

II. THEORY AND METHODOLOGY 33
1. Theoretical Perspective of Constructivism 33
1.1 Social Constructivism with a Critical View 38
2. The Methodological Framework 41
2.1 Qualitative Content Analysis 45
2.2 Interviews 47
3. Summary 49

III. PERCEPTION AND DECISION MAKING IN AMERICAN SECURITY POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM 51
1. National Factors of Impact 51
2. Empirical Results 57
2.1 Overall Threat Perception 58
2.2 International Terrorism 61
2.3 Perceptions of Terrorists 67
2.4 Others and the Self 71
2.5 Linked Policies 73
2.6 Institutional Differences, Changes over Time and Lessons 82
3. Discussion of Empirical Results 86
4. Summary 96

IV. PERCEPTION AND DECISION MAKING IN GERMAN SECURITY POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM 97
1. National Factors of Impact 97
2. Empirical Results 103
2.1 Overall Threat Perception 103
2.2 International Terrorism 109
2.3 Perceptions of Terrorists 112
2.4 Others and the Self 115
2.5 Linked Policies 116

2.6 Institutional Differences, Changes over Time and Lessons 126
3. Discussion of Empirical Results 130
4. Summary 135

V. DIVERGENCE, CONVERGENCE AND OPPORTUNITIES 137
1. The U.S. and Germany: Key Differences and Commonalities 137
2. Expanding Peace Potential: What the Socio-Political, Psychological and Theological Dimensions Offer 145
3. Strategies to Benefit Transatlantic Security Cooperation 151
4. Summary and Outlook 154

LIST OF REFERENCES 157

APPENDIX 179