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Table of contents

1. Tough Policy Didn't Save Nepal's Throne.....	1
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Tough Policy Didn't Save Nepal's Throne

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Full text: Tim Quast's June 1 letter on the strife in Sri Lanka approvingly quotes an aide-de-camp to the former King of Nepal as saying "To beat terrorists you must be a better thug than the thugs." Such muscular aphorisms sound good in the sanctuary of a breakfast bar at the local Hilton. Without debating the merits of this conflict, the natural conclusion to such a prescriptive lesson is that in either case "the thugs have won." Tellingly, such a reflexive policy has led to the demise of Gen. Victory Rana's beloved monarchy in Nepal. As a student of conflict management, I suggest that a better but harder choice requires development of a broader array of creative strategies to outthink the thugs and terrorists.

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