


PSCI 3510
Terrorism and Political Violence
October 10, 2018

Jim Butterfield
Quynh Mai
jimbutterfield.org/3510.html



Announcements

- Film this evening at 6:30 pm in 3301 Friedmann.
- Midterm exam on Monday.
 - The study guide is on the web site.
 - Short answer questions (1-2 sentences).
 - Short essays.
 - Longer essays.
 - Full class period.
 - Bring an exam booklet (5% penalty without).



Last Time

- Goals, strategies and tactics.
- Strategies:
 - Attrition.
 - Provocation.
 - Intimidation.
 - Spoiling.



Tactic	Percentage
Bombing/Explosion	52%
Armed Assault	23%
Hostage Taking	9%
Assassination	8%
Facility/Infrastructure Attack	8%


Global Terrorism Tactics, 2015
USDOS

Goals and Strategies

- Policy change.
 - Seek changes in policies and practices. Example:
 - al-Qaeda to US: stop supporting Israel; withdraw forces from Middle East.
- Strategies:
 - Attrition
 - Provocation
 - Intimidation

Goals and Strategies


- Social control. Examples:
 - KKK intimidation of blacks in civil rights era.
 - Bombing of abortion clinics.
- Strategies:
 - KKK: Intimidation – keep blacks from accessing the newly granted civil rights.
 - Violent anti-abortionists: scare clients away; intimidate doctors who perform procedures; force clinics to close.



Birmingham AL 1998

Goals and Strategies

- Status quo maintenance.
 - Support status quo against those who want to change it. Examples:
 - United Self-Defense Force (against FARC), Colombia 1990s-2000s
 - Ulster Freedom Fighters (against the IRA), Northern Ireland 1973-1994
 - Similar to *pacification* strategy of military and security forces in Central America, 1980s



Recruiting (Atran)

- The "institutional" factor (I'm not fond of this term).
 - In other words, the tactics of sponsors/organizers of suicide terrorism.
- "Fictive kin" as an "emotionally driven commitment."
 - Tight cells of terrorists who bond and make mutual commitment to die, and...
 - ...larger "brothers/sisters/mothers/fathers/children" identity.
 - Recall "psychological rewards of terrorism" (Reich)



Recruiting Followers Through New Media

- Borum: mindsets, vulnerabilities and propensities.
- Archetti:
 - Indirect relationships: part of modernity.
 - "Imagined communities" (no such thing as a "lone wolf").
 - Compatibility between individual and group narratives.
 - Narratives are more than persuasive messages: socially shared and socially networked.
 - Belonging and identity.



"Whether an individual will join an extremist group depends on the compatibility between the individual's own narrative and the one of the group." (Archetti)



British teenage girls walk through security at Gatwick airport before they boarded a flight to Turkey on Feb. 17, 2015.



Overview of first half of the semester.

History of Terrorism

- Ancient terrorism
 - Zealots-Sicarii
 - Thugs
 - Assassins
- Modern state terrorism
 - Jacobins and Robespierre
 - Stalinist USSR
 - Nazi Germany
 - Cambodian Khmer Rouge
- Modern grass-roots terrorism
 - Russian anarchists
 - Ethnic and nationalist separatism
 - European left-wing movements
 - Religious terrorism



Terrorism vs Hate Crimes



Causes of Terrorism

- When are these conventional explanations persuasive?
 - Poverty and education.
 - Religion.
 - Identity.
 - Psychological maladies or vulnerabilities.

Basque ETA separatists in Spain



Strategies and Tactics

- Goals of terrorism.
- Strategies.
- Suicide terrorism (one tactic).
- Recruitment.
 - "Fictive kin," "imagined communities," belonging and identity.
 - Psychological rewards.
 - Mindsets, vulnerabilities and propensities.

