

PSCI 3510  
Terrorism and  
Political Violence  
October 29, 2018

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**Terrorism?**

Fourteen letter bombs

**SERIES OF SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES DISCOVERED**

NEWS

**Terrorism?**

- Charges:
  - interstate transportation of an explosive
  - illegal mailing of explosives
  - threats against former presidents
  - threatening interstate communications
  - assaulting federal officers
- There is no legal statute for domestic terrorism.
- Most charges re terrorism: "providing material support for terrorism."

**NYC Attack**  
Oct 31, 2017

- Truck drove down bike path, killed 8 and wounded 11.
- ISIS sympathizer.
- Charges: mostly murder and attempted murder.

**Announcements**

- Munich* (2005) this evening at 6:30 pm in 3301 Friedmann.
- Bring devices on Wednesday.
  - Be thinking: who are your allies? Likely opponents?

Remembering where we left off on Wednesday...

Did the War on Terror Fail?



Thrall and Goepner article. Know your sources...

- Week #8: M-W October 23/25: Counter terrorism.
- Readings:
- United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006).
  - United Nations Resolution 70/291: The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review (2016).
  - "The Instruments of Counterterrorism," U.S. Foreign Policy Agenda 6 (November 2001).
  - Trevor Thrall and Eric Goepner, "Steep Back: Lessons for US Foreign Policy from the Failed War on Terror," Cato Institute Policy Analysis #14 (June 26, 2017).

What is the Cato Institute?  
A libertarian think tank.  
What is libertarianism?

Errors? (Thrall and Goepner)

1. Threat inflation.

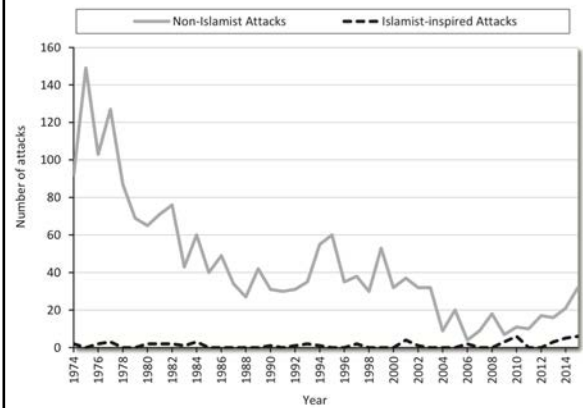
CBS news item just before 2016 election.  
Nothing happened.



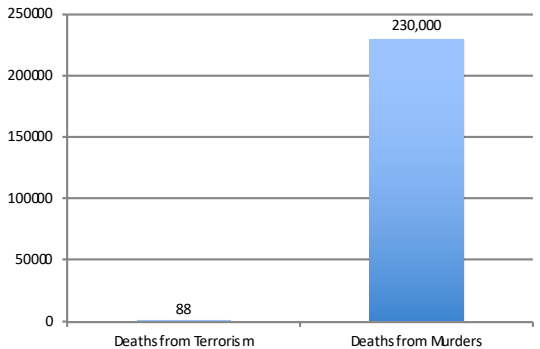
2017 Terrorism & Political Violence Risk Map

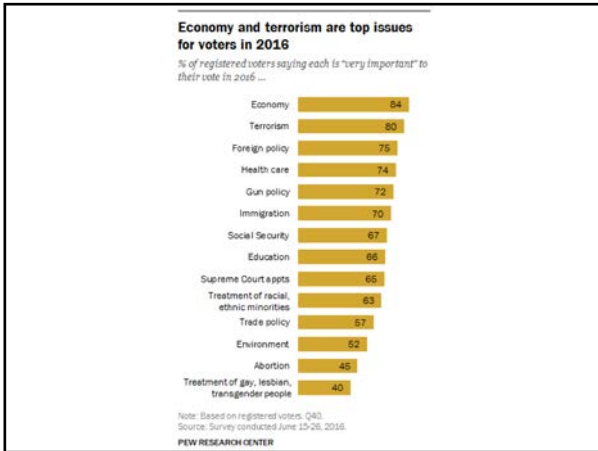
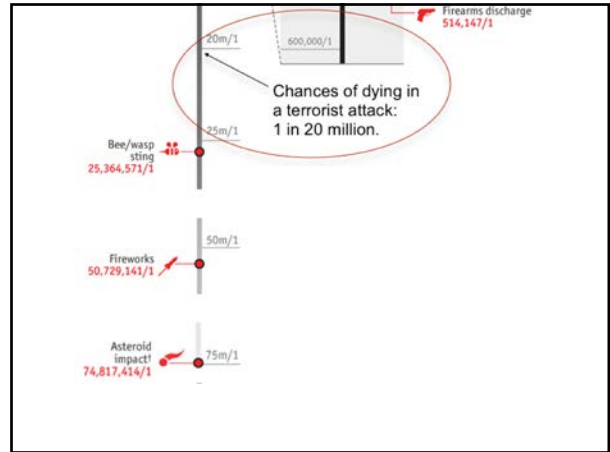
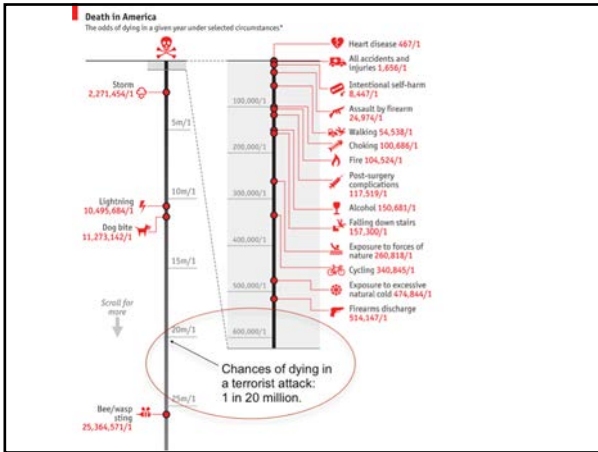


Islamist versus Non-Islamist Terror Events in the United States




Deaths from Terrorism vs Murders in US, 2002-2014





**Weak Borders Threat?**

- 2016 calculation: 173,000 people enter the US every year.\*
- How many attacks from ISIS, al-Qaeda and similar organizations have we had since 9/11?



\*Mueller and Stewart, ISA 2106

- "Protecting the United States from terrorist attacks is the FBI's number one priority." - FBI Website
- "The United States faces a fundamental challenge to its way of life." - American Enterprise Institute
- "The United States is at risk of a relentless terror attack every single day." - Department of Homeland Security, April 2017

### Counter-Terrorism Errors? (Thrall and Goepner)

1. Threat inflation.
2. Flawed counter-terrorism strategy.
  - a. The target of global terrorism is rarely the US. It's mostly about local and regional politics.
  - b. The US cannot "kill its way out" of the war against al-Qaeda and ISIS (Stanley McChrystal, US general).
    - Costs to us: in 2007, \$8,300 *per second*\* on wars.
  - c. We overestimate our ability to shape the future of other countries.

\*Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz and Harvard public finance lecturer Linda Bilmes. *Washington Post* 9/22/07.

### 2006 National Security Strategy

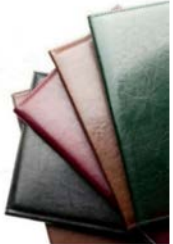
- Document: "The goal of our statecraft is to help create a world of democratic, well-governed states that can meet the needs of their citizens and conduct themselves responsibly in the international system."
- Response by Posen (article author): "Effective and non-hypocritical democracy promotion will bolster U.S. national security in the long-term, but relying on it as a panacea for terrorism is a recipe for failure."
- Why?
  - Thrall and Goepner: we're not very good at it.

### What is the Democracy Promotion Strategy?

- Why do it?
  - Democratic peace theory: democracies do not go to war with other democracies.
- What does it entail?
  - Aid countries in building institutions for democratic process and good governance.

### Democracy promotion core

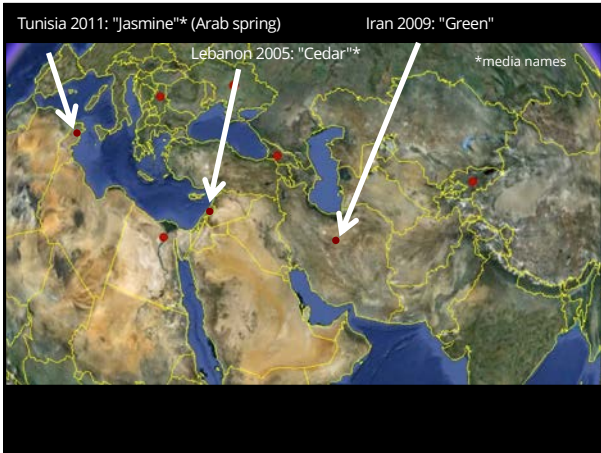
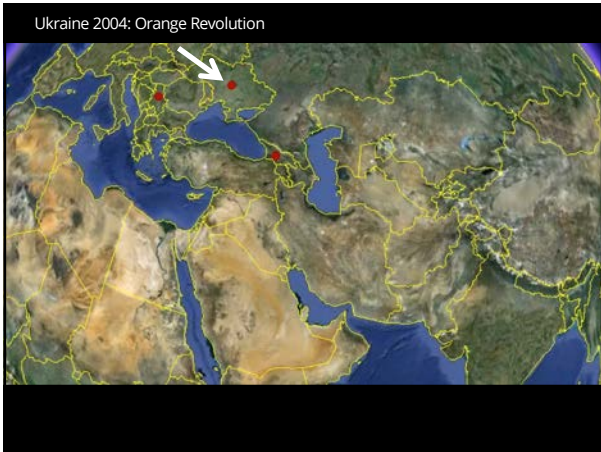
Sector	Goal
Electoral process	Free and fair elections
	Strong political parties
Institution building	Democratic constitution
	Effective judiciary / law institutions
	Representative legislature
	Responsive local governments
	Prodemocracy military
Civil Society	Active advocacy NGOs
	educated citizens
	Independent media
	Strong unions



Top down / bottom up  
Linkage / leverage

Source: Carothers, 2011 and Fild, Rasher and Rocha, 2008





**2006 National Security Strategy**

- Document: "The goal of our statecraft is to help create a world of democratic, well-governed states that can meet the needs of their citizens and conduct themselves responsibly in the international system."
- Posen (article author): "Effective and non-hypocritical democracy promotion will bolster U.S. national security in the long-term, but relying on it as a panacea for terrorism is a recipe for failure."
- Why?
  - Thrall and Goepner: we're not very good at it.
  - Suleman:
    - We often need non-democratic allies.
    - Democracy sometimes fails. Result can be weak or failed states.

