

PSCI 3510
Terrorism and Political
Violence
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Course site: jimbutterfield.org/3510.html

Announcement

- The first two extra credit movies have been scheduled:
 - Michael Collins, Wednesday Oct 9.
 - Munich, Tuesday Oct 29.
- Both are at 6pm in 3301 Friedmann.





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Today and Thursday

- A history of terrorism.
- The waves.
- "Old" vs "new" terrorism.
- State vs grass-roots, rebel terrorism.

Modern Terrorism

- Maximilien Robespierre, head of the Jacobins in France, 1793-4.
- Background:
 - absolutist monarchy overthrown in the French Revolution, 1789
 - revolutionaries influenced by the Enlightenment





Let them eat cake!*

* She may never have actually said this.

Robespierre

- "...the springs of popular government in revolution are at once virtue and terror: virtue, without which terror is fatal; *terror, without which virtue is powerless*" (italics added).

Russia in the 2nd half of the 19th C

- Tsarist (Czarist) absolutist monarchy.
- Very little industrialization (no modernizing tendencies).
- Overwhelmingly agrarian.
- Serfdom (a form of slavery) was eliminated in 1861.
- Small, influential aristocratic class, large impoverished peasantry.



Mikhail Bakunin

- Russian anarchist, 1814-1876.



Sergei Nechaev

- Russian Nihilist, 1847-1882.
- *Catechism of the Revolutionist*, 1869:
 - The target of terrorism is "society itself [because it is] foul and something that must be destroyed because the target society is evil per se and there is nothing worthy in it."
 - Rejection of morality.



"The People's Will" (*Narodnaya Volya*)

- Russian agrarian populist movement, 1879-1880s.
- Assassinated Tsar Alexander II, 1881 (target-specific terrorism)



The Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood
Site of tsar's assassination
St Petersburg



Mao Zedong

- Chinese communist leader from 1949-1976.
- Background:
 - Chinese communist revolution was in 1949.
 - China was even more agrarian and impoverished than Russia in 1917.



Mao Zedong

- Chinese head of public security:
 - "In suppressing the resistance of the counterrevolutionaries, the dictatorship of the proletariat cannot, of course, avoid the shedding of blood. But the nature of such bloodshed is entirely different from the bloodshed under the dictatorship of the exploiting classes; *here the blood that is shed is not the people's but that of counterrevolutionaries.*"



"Struggle session"
Chinese Cultural Revolution

Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge

- Cambodia (Kampuchea), 1975-1979.
- Attempted complete "re-engineering" of society by executing anyone with more than rudimentary education.
- Estimated deaths: between 1.5 and 2.5 million, or roughly a quarter of the population.



Pol Pot



- "Better to kill an innocent by mistake than spare an enemy by mistake."
- "He who protests is an enemy; he who opposes is a corpse."

Carlos Marighella

- Brazilian revolutionary, 1911-1969.
 - An urban guerilla is "one who is not afraid of dismantling and destroying the political and social structure of society" (1969).

**Minimanual
of the
Urban Guerrilla**

By
Carlos Marighella
1969

Minimanual of the Urban Guerilla

- Influenced:
 - The Weathermen (US radical leftist group, 1969-1977)
 - The Irish Republican Army (1970s-2000s)
 - Basque separatists (Spain, 1960s-2000s)
 - The Red Army Faction (Germany, 1970s-1990s)
 - The Red Brigades (Italy, 1970s-1980s)



Former Italian PM Aldo Moro, kidnapped and executed by the Red Brigades, 1978

Osama in Laden, al-Qaeda

