

PSCI 3510
Terrorism and Political
Violence
September 5, 2018

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Course site: jimbutterfield.org/3510



Announcements

- First quiz (on course policies) is at the beginning of class on Monday.
- Course e-reserves are now available.
- Films on the course schedule (for extra credit):
 - *Michael Collins*
 - *Munich*
 - *The Killing Fields*
 - What evenings are best at 6pm?

Some Justifications for Terrorism

- Robespierre 1794 (French Revolution): "...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).
- Russian anarchists, second half of the 19th C: the state is evil, and therefore it is moral to commit terrorism against it.

Some Justifications for Terrorism

- Osama bin Laden:
"It should not be hidden from you that the people of Islam had suffered from aggression, iniquity and injustice imposed on them by the Zionist-Crusaders alliance and their collaborators."

What do they all share in common?

"Terrorism, both as practiced and justified by terrorist themselves, is a tool used to achieve a specific outcome by using force or violence on one segment of society with the primary goal of causing fear in the larger society to make change in that society."

It's asymmetric...
...and propagandistic.

(from Garrison)

How has terrorism changed?

What is the *philosophy of the bomb*?



Bhagat Singh, Indian nationalist and terrorist, 1920s



Definitions

- Hate Crimes:
 - "Crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity" (Hate Crime Statistics Act, 1990)
- Terrorism:
 - "A tool used to achieve a specific outcome by using force or violence on one segment of society with the primary goal of causing fear in the larger society to make change in that society."

jimbutterfield.org/3510, schedule

Week #2: Monday: no class (Labor Day), Wednesday September 5: Defining and conceptualizing terrorism.

Readings:

- Arthur H. Garrison, "Defining terrorism: philosophy of the bomb, propaganda by deed and change through fear and violence," *Criminal Justice Studies* 17:3 (September 2004), 259-279 [e-reserve].
- Anthony H. Cordesman, "Terrorism and hate crimes: dealing with all of the threats from extremism," Center for Strategic and International Studies (July 5, 2017).
- Review [terrorism timeline](#). Look at the types and locations of attacks since 1972. There are also country or region-specific timelines are devoted solely to [Russia](#), [Turkey](#), [Indonesia](#), [Pakistan](#), and [Western Europe](#), and a [long-term timeline of terrorist acts in the US dating back to 1886](#).
- Geoffrey Pullum, "Plain talk about public murder," *Chronicle of Higher Education* (August 22, 2017). Note: [here is a brief news story about what happened in Turkey](#).
- Review [2015 FBI hate crime statistics](#) for the US.

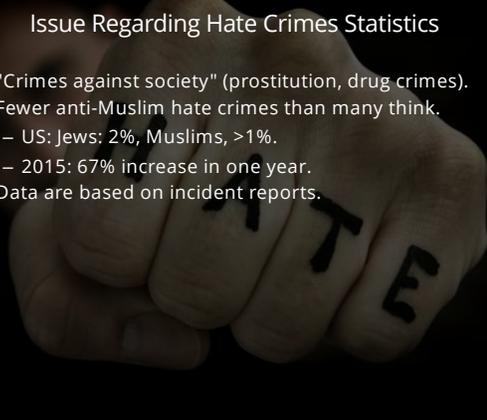


Analyze the data.

What are the most important observations we should note?

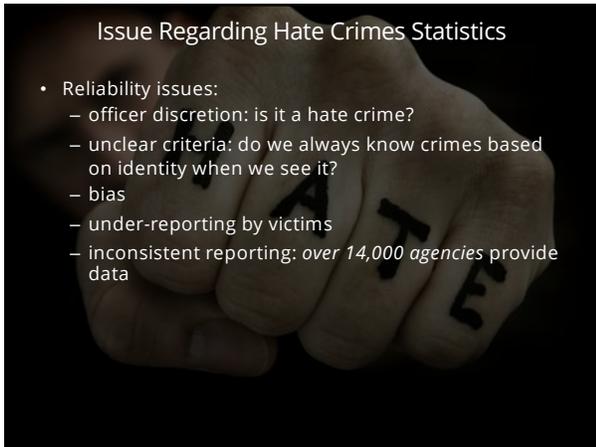
Issue Regarding Hate Crimes Statistics

- "Crimes against society" (prostitution, drug crimes).
- Fewer anti-Muslim hate crimes than many think.
 - US: Jews: 2%, Muslims, >1%.
 - 2015: 67% increase in one year.
- Data are based on incident reports.



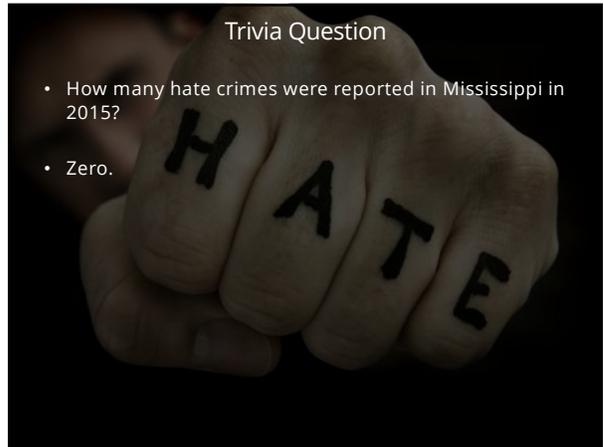
Issue Regarding Hate Crimes Statistics

- Reliability issues:
 - officer discretion: is it a hate crime?
 - unclear criteria: do we always know crimes based on identity when we see it?
 - bias
 - under-reporting by victims
 - inconsistent reporting: *over 14,000 agencies* provide data



Trivia Question

- How many hate crimes were reported in Mississippi in 2015?
- Zero.



Trivia Question

- How many hate crimes were reported in Mississippi in 2015?



Justice Department: He killed because she was transgender

Joshua Valum, 29, of Lucedale is the first person prosecuted for a federal hate crime in which the victim was targeted for being transgender, the Justice Department said in a news release.