

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

Announcement

- First quiz (on course policies) is at the beginning of class on Tuesday.
- Attendance tracking will also start on Tuesday.



Sri Lanka Easter Bombings, April 2019 (259 dead)



Reportedly in retaliation for Christchurch (NZ) mosque shootings in March (49 dead).

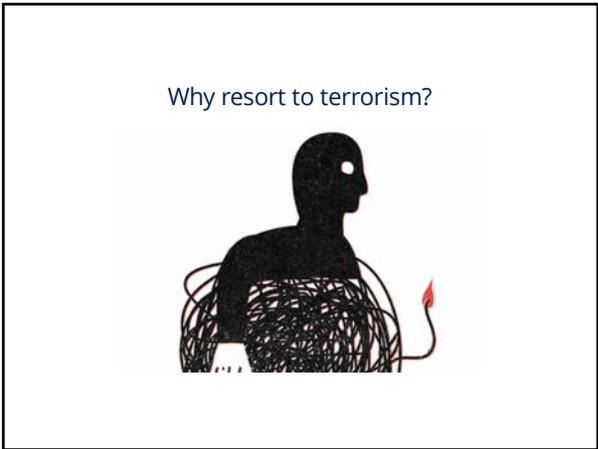


El Paso Shooting August 3 (22 dead).
The shooter targeted Hispanics.



From the "manifesto" of the El Paso shooter:

"In general, I support the Christchurch shooter and his manifesto. This attack is a response to the Hispanic invasion of Texas. They are the instigators, not me. I am simply defending my country from cultural and ethnic replacement brought on by an invasion. Some people will think this statement is hypocritical because of the nearly complete ethnic and cultural destruction brought to the Native Americans by our European ancestors, but this just reinforces my point. The natives didn't take the invasion of Europeans seriously, and now what's left is just a shadow of what was."



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).

The Reign of Terror during the French Revolution 1793-1794

Some Justifications for Terrorism

- Mikhail Bakunin, 1869 (Russian anarchist):
 "Governmental cruelty has engendered the cruelty of the people and made it into something necessary and natural. But between these two cruelties, there still remains a vast difference; the first strives for the complete annihilation of the people, the other endeavors to set them free."

Assassination of Tsar Alexander II 1881

Some Justifications for Terrorism

- Osama bin Laden, 1996:
 "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."



"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)

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." (Garrison)

Propaganda By Deed

- From three Italian anarchists, 1876.
- What is "propaganda"?
 - Messaging to influence public opinion.
- "The masses [are] too exhausted at the end of their long working day to read leaflets and listen to speeches; only violent actions [can] catch their attention.





Malatesta, Cafiero and Covelli

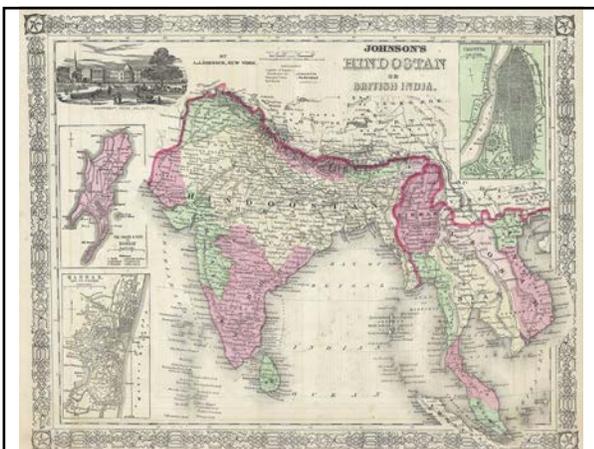
The Philosophy of the Bomb



Bhagat Singh, Indian nationalist and terrorist, 1920s
Hindustan Socialist Republican Association



Bhagwati Charan Vohra
Author, Bomb-Maker



The Philosophy of the Bomb



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- Impacts not only the target, but also on victims of oppression.
- Terror is the result of humiliation and desperation.
 - Terrorism increases self-respect and awareness.

Terrorism Over Time

- Terrorism has been with us for a very long time.
- The justifications that terrorists cite vary.
- The targets vary.
- But the tool of terrorism remains.

"Terrorism is a tool to cause change through the infliction of fear. [This] remains constant regardless of the desired result." (Garrison)

Terrorism is not explained by the cause.

9-6-1901



9-11-2001

