

PSCI 3510
Terrorism and
Political Violence
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Attrition? Intimidation? Provocation?
Spoiling? Outbidding? Or what?

Announcements

- Film Monday evening (10/16) at 7pm in 3301 Friedmann.
- Meeting with poli sci alumna Friday, 12:00 in 3301 Friedmann (food!).
- Midterm exam one week from today.
 - Mostly (perhaps all) essay format.
 - Some short, some longer.
 - Full class period.
 - Bring an exam booklet (5% penalty without).
 - Study guide will be posted on Friday.



Simulation

Debate questions:

1. How can the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy be improved and updated to counter ongoing terrorist threats?
2. What can be done to stop ISIS from engaging in terrorism in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere?

- Formal debate according to simplified UN procedures.
- Goal: the adoption of one or more resolutions.
- Time allowed for informal, breakout sessions for lobbying, conferral.



Simulation

- Writing assignment #1: country profile. Due October 28.
- Writing assignment #2: country position papers on both questions. Due November 16.
- Pre-simulation preparation (later):
 1. Learn rules of procedure.
 2. Study format of resolutions.
 3. Prepare draft resolutions with other representatives.

Resolution 2334 (2016)
Adopted by the Security Council at its 7853rd meeting, on 23 December 2016

The Security Council,
Reaffirming its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 446 (1979), 452 (1979), 465 (1980), 476 (1980), 478 (1980), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), and 1850 (2008),
Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming, inter alia, the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Simulation

- The keys to success:
 - Preparation, both as part of the writing assignments and in advance of the simulation.
 - Role-playing: adopt the persona of a representative of the country you represent.
 - Succinctness: you will have one minute to make your points, after which you will be timed out. Don't ramble.
 - Decorum: delegates do not debate, shout, interrupt, or joke during formal debate.
 - Negotiation and compromise are the goals, but the latter only when it makes sense based on your role.

Simulation

Roles

Bolivia: Slabaugh	Iraq: TenBrink	Saudi Arabia: Rhames
China: Davidson	Israel: Stepnitz	Senegal: Calder
Egypt: MacCready	Italy: Freeman	Sweden: Ransone
Ethiopia: Gadelkarim	Japan: Jones	Syria: Nelson
France: Kolenda	Kazakhstan: Karwacki	Turkey: Place
Germany: Slaven	Kenya: Vasquez	UK: Bettis
India: Byron	Nigeria: Hoyt	Ukraine: Preston
Indonesia: Kummerfeldt	Pakistan: Sprague	Uruguay: Boldt
Iran: Hernandez	Russia: Bucksbaum	USA: Gudobba

Monday...

- Psychological explanations of terrorism.
 - Mindsets (authoritarian, dogmatic, apocalyptic, fundamentalist)
 - Vulnerabilities and propensities.
- Mistakes in understanding motives for terrorism.
 - Critical thinking mistakes: overgeneralization, reductionism.
 - Other errors:
 - Under appreciation for psychology of rewards.
 - Describing motivations with complex psychological diagnoses.
 - One more →

Other Errors

- Under appreciation for psychology of rewards.
- Describing motivations with complex psychological diagnoses
- Ignoring rational motivations
 - Resorting to terrorism may be perceived as the most rational way of achieving goals.



Another Error?

- The Hollander critique: Western intellectuals carry some of the blame.
 - "ends justify the means" arguments
 - communism, fascism, nationalism: belief systems developed in Europe

"Liberty Leading the People"
Delacroix 1830
French nationalist art



Goals and Strategies

- Terrorist groups are operating from a position of an imbalance of power.
- Strategies are calculated – rationally.
- "Talk is cheap." Threats may not be convincing.
- Terrorist acts are "costly signals": actions so costly that bluffers and liars are unwilling to take them.



Victim in Ariana Grande concert bombing, London - March 2017

Goals and Strategies (Kydd/Walter)

- Five strategies:
 - Attrition: wear the target down.
 - Provocation: provoke the target into taking action that weakens it.
 - Intimidation: intimidate the target into making concessions or changing behavior.
 - Spoiling: derail fragile processes such as peace negotiations.
 - Outbidding: delegitimizing moderates on the same side.

Note: Strategy vs Tactics.

- Strategy: a plan of action to achieve goals. How will we do it, broadly defined?
- Tactics: specific actions against specific targets as part of a broader strategy.
 - Examples: suicide bombings, targeted assassinations, robbing banks, blowing up government offices, targeting civilians (and many more)

Goals and Strategies

- Regime change.
 - Replace leadership; change system. Examples:
 - Red Army Faction, Germany/Red Brigades, Italy (1970s-80s).
 - Shining Path (*Sendero Luminoso*), Peru 1980s.
- Strategies
 - RAF/Red Brigades: attrition, provocation
 - Shining Path: outbidding

Goals and Strategies

- Territorial change.
 - Usually separatism, independence. Examples:
 - Irish ~1912-1921.
 - Tamils in Sri Lanka 1983-2009.
- Strategies
 - Basques/ETA: provocation ("Nothing radicalizes a people faster than the unleashing of undisciplined security forces on its towns and villages.")
 - Tamil Tigers: provocation, outbidding.
 - Ulster Freedom Fighters, Northern Ireland: spoiling

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