

PSCI 3510
Terrorism and Political Violence
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breeding ground for terrorism?

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- Re: poverty, does the evidence support the thesis that poverty leads to terrorism?



Causes of Terrorism

- Two oft-cited causes: religion and poverty.
 - Ted Gurr: the *relative deprivation* thesis.
 - Rapoport: religious terrorism is the fourth wave.
- Re: religion, the question is not if, but under what conditions religious activism turns violent.



Data Sources

- I will introduce you to some data sources this semester.
- Links to each are on the course web site.
- These sources are relevant to not only terrorism, but other social, economic and political phenomenon.

Fragile States Index

- Compiled by the Fund for Peace from numerous sources.
- Started in 2005 as the Failed States Index.
- Measures risk of state failure.
 - State failure: breeding ground for civil wars, terrorism, severe poverty, health epidemics, mass migration flows, and more.
- Based on 12 categories of indicators.



Components of the FSI

- SA: state of public security
- FE: factionalized elites (political fragmentation)
- GG: group grievances (often racial or ethnic)
- EC: economic decline
- UD: uneven economic development
- HF: human flight and brain drain
- SL: state legitimacy
- PS: quality of public services
- HR: human rights and rule of law
- DP: demographic pressures (e.g., population dynamics, health)
- RD: refugees
- EX: external intervention