History of Terrorism

This section will cover some of the major events in the history of terrorism internationally.

Importantly, this is not a full history of all terrorist incidents nor is it a complete history of the most important terrorist incidents.

This is simply a history of some of the more significant groups and incidents throughout history.
Zealots
100 A.D.

Jewish political movement that attempted to remove the Roman Empire from Israel.

Particularly violent group that used the Sica, a small dagger, to kill those who they felt were not following their call to war with the Romans.

Killed both Romans and Jews they felt were collaborators in an attempt to inspire citizens to their cause of removing the Romans.

They were so fanatical about their desire to remove the Romans that this is where the term “Zealot” comes from.

Accomplished very little in terms of removal or Romans.
Assassins
700-1300’s

The term Assassin develops from the Hashshashin, a militant religious sect of Ismaili Muslims, active in the Middle East in the 8th-14th century.

This mystic Secret Society, killed members of the Abbasid elite for political and religious motivations.

The preferred method of killing was a dagger and the preferred location was generally in public where others could witness the death.

Importantly, the deaths were in public so that they would have a dramatic and fear inducing impact on the public.

Trivia: The assassins were devout users of hashish which was a method for indoctrinating and controlling the members of the cult.
French Crusades

During the Albigensian Crusade in Southern France, concern was raised about the killing of loyal Catholics.

In order to instill fear, and to keep the invaders guessing the Catholics decided to kill everyone with impunity.

Legend has it the Pope’s representative was quoted as saying “Kill them all, God will know his own”.

This is the origin of Kill them all and let God sort them out.

Importantly, it was also the first instance of using indiscriminantly killing to inspire killing and to throw off an opponent and break their spirit.

Essentially, this was evidence of using the appearance of being crazy to inspire fear.
Thuggee Cult
1200-1800’s

Hindu cult that operated in India from the 1200’s until the 1800’s.
While, they mostly victimized travelers and would also rob them, the main reason for their killings were religious in nature.
In particular, the killings were sacrifices to the goddess Kali, the goddess of Death.
Estimates are that they killed on order of 2,000,000 victims
Thuggees were eventually stamped out by the British in the early 1800’s.

Trivia: The word Thug comes from thuggee.
Guy Fawkes

Attempted to assassinate both the King and both houses of Parliament by blowing up Westminster Palace during the formal opening session of the 1605 parliament.

The plot was known as the “Gunpowder Plot” as the assassination was to involve detonating 1800 pounds of gunpowder under the Palace.

The goal of the plot was to remove, in one move, all of the protestant aristocracy in England, allowing a Roman Catholic rule.

The plot was stopped at the last minute and Fawkes was tortured until he confessed.
Remember, remember the fifth of November,
The gunpowder, treason and plot,
I see of no reason why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot.
Guy Fawkes, Guy Fawkes, 'twas his intent
To blow up the King and the Parliament.
Three score barrels of powder below,
Poor old England to overthrow:
By God's providence he was catch'd
With a dark lantern and burning match.
Holloa boys, holloa boys, make the bells ring.
Holloa boys, holloa boys, God save the King!
Hip hip hoorah!
Reign of Terror

Robespierre led this period after the French revolution which used violence and extreme repression to preserve the revolution.

Reign of terror last about a year and took the lives of between 20,000 to 40,000 people.

In the month before the Terror ended there were 1,900 executions.

Terror ended when the leaders were executed.

This is where the term Terror became to be associated with violence for political purposes.
Luddites

Luddites were a social movement of English textile workers that protested the Industrial revolution.

Movement is named after mythical leader Ned Ludd

Protests came from fear that the new technology would cost them their jobs.

Protests consisted of sabotage and destruction of textile machines and other new technology that they felt would ruin their livelihood.

Protests turned into battles with British Army and resulted in mass executions and deportations to penal colonies.

Unabomber is often considered to be a Luddite based on his views of technology and use of terrorism to fight it.
Gavrilo Princip, a student and member of the Serb terrorist organization Black Hand, assassinated Austrian Archduke Ferdinand and his wife in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

This assassination instigated a series of political events that led to WWI.

One of the most famous assassinations.

Showed the power that one “lone gunman” could have on society and government in general.
Bloody Sunday

Elite British Paratroopers fired on Irish Catholic demonstrators in Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

26 people were shot, 13 of which died immediately and 1 died 5 months later.

Of the 13 who died immediately, 6 were minors.

Significantly increased the numbers of those joining the outlawed Provisional Irish Republican Army.

Further increased the body count in the “troubles” between Britain and N. Ireland.
Munich Olympics

8 members of Black September took hostage 9 members of the Israeli Olympic team at the Olympic village.

Five terrorists and all 9 athletes were killed during a botched rescue attempt by the German Police.

This was the first internationally televised terrorist incident and helped usher in the age of media staged terrorist incidents.

Led to a years long revenge campaign by Israel to kill those involved in the incident.
Beirut Marine Barracks
Beirut Marine Barracks

Two truck bombs struck the barracks housing both U.S. and French troops that were part of a multinational peacekeeping force.

299 soldiers killed, majority of which were Marines.

One of the first instances of a suicide bomber and had serious impacts on two fronts.

1. **Fear**: U.S. was shocked people would lose their lives to kill others.

2. **Security**: Changes in how U.S. facilities *abroad* were guarded.
Two North Korean operatives planted a bomb on Korean Air Flight 858, causing it to explode over the Andaman Sea, killing 115.

Two operatives, a 70 year old male and 26 year old female, were arrested and subsequently swallowed cyanide pills.

While the male died, the female lived and years later confessed completely to the operation.

The mission was personally planned by Kim Jong II, the now leader of North Korea and son of the prior leader.

The goal of the bombing was to try to destabilize the South Korea government.
Aum Shinrikyo

Well coordinated Sarin gas attack on 5 different subway stations in Tokyo killed 12 and resulted in the injury of 1,000’s

Group is often called a doomsday cult, however they are basically a Buddhist organization with a charismatic leader and 40,000 worldwide followers.

Impact

1. Japan: Fear in japan where this was worst incident since WWII.

2. Sophistication: Impressive sophistication for meager amount of money spent on attack.
Kenya and Tanzania Embassy Bombings
1998
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1998

Highly coordinated bombing attack on U.S. embassies in both Tanzania and Kenya.

Attacks were carried out by Al Qaeda operatives in Africa.

Importance

1. **Location**: One of the first real attacks on U.S. interests in Africa, a previously ignored area of targets.

2. **Coordination**: The level of coordination from small disparate cells gave an indication of the level of sophistication amongst the groups.
Beslan Russia
2004
Beslan Russia
2004

Chechen rebels took over a grade school in the town of Beslan, Russia killing 363, including 186 children.

Hostages were taken and held for approximately 3 days before gunfire erupted between the soldiers and the Chechens.

Impact:

1. Children as targets: First time children were used as targets in a major terrorist act.

2. Technology: Entire incident was filmed by the terrorists with a video camera and dispersed through the internet.
Short History of Terrorism in the U.S.
Chronology of Terrorism in the U.S.

When people think of terrorism in the U.S. they think that our history of events goes back only to the 1960’s. In fact the U.S. has a long and storied history of terrorist incidents.

This history can be broken down into 8 distinct phases dating back to the founding of the country

1. Revolution (1776-1890)
2. Radicalism (1886-1924)
3. Sabotage (1914-1918)
4. World War (1939-1945)
5. Subversion (1938-1956)
7. Extremism (1984-Present)
8. International Terrorism (1980-Present)
Revolution
1776-1890
Revolution
1776-1890

The founding of our country and its first hundred years was a turbulent time in our nation's history.

1776: Washington Kidnapping plot: Loyalists to King George plan to Kidnap George Washington and kill his chief officers.

1814: British burn Washington D.C.

1831: Nat Turner slave Rebellion results in death of 50 slave owners.

1832: Indiana Militia attack Sauk and Fox villages in Bad Ax Wisconsin, killing 850.

Revolution
1776-1890

1863: William C. Quantrill leads Confederate guerillas on a raid of Lawrence Kansas, killing 150 civilians.

1865: President Lincoln I assassinated by John Wilkes Booth

1890: Seventh cavalry massacre 300 Sioux at Wounded Knee, S. Dakota
Radicalism  
1886-1924

1886: Chicago Haymarket Square bombing kills seven policemen and injures many.

1901: Anarchist Leon Czolgosz mortally wounds President William McKinley.

1908: Two anarchists die in botched bombing of NY Union Square meant to kill police officers.

1910: Labor union radicals bomb L.A. Times printing plant, killing 27.

1916: Bomb explodes during a PRO-War rally in San Francisco, killing and injuring 40.

1919: Mail bombs sent to 34 business and political leaders.
Radicalism
1886-1924

1919: Bombs simultaneously explode at the homes of prominent Americans in 8 cities, including Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer’s home in Washington D.C.

1920: Anarchists detonate massive bomb on Wall Street killing 40 and wounding hundreds.
Sabotage
1914-1918

1915: German professor Erich Muenter bombs U.S. capitol

1916: German saboteurs blow up ammunition depot on Black Tom Island in New York Harbor.

1917: German saboteurs blow up ammunition factory in Kingsland, N.Y.

1918: Bomb planted by German saboteur Kurt Jahnke sinks USS San Diego off N.Y. City, killing 6.
Sabotage
1914-1918

Black Tom Island
World War
1939-1945

1939: Large Pro-Nazi rally held at Madison Square Garden in N.Y.C.

1940: Joint rally of KKK and German-American Bund at Andover, N.J.

1942: Two teams of German saboteurs set ashore in Long Island, N.Y. and Northern Florida.

Much of the terror war during this time period was fought over seas, however, many laws were created to fight terror in the U.S.
As with the period during World War II, this time period was known more for legislative response to terror and supposed enemies than for actual terrorist incidents on U.S. soil.

While not an attack on the U.S., the biggest incident to occur during this time was the stealing of Nuclear secrets for Russia.

Much of the legislation of this time dealt with the threat communism to the federal government and our way of life.

Numerous laws were created dealing with loyalty oaths of federal employees and penalties for being communist supporters.
Protest
1969-1981

This era was characterized by numerous violent incidents by left-wing political groups and general social upheaval caused by political assassinations.

Two of the most active groups were the weather Underground and the Black Liberation Army

1970: Weather Underground bombs a N.Y. judges house and National Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C.


1971: Black Liberation Army kill police officers in Atlanta, San Francisco, and N.Y.C.

1972: Weather Underground bombs the Pentagon
Protest
1969-1981


1981: Former BLA and WUO members attempt to rob a brinks armored car in N.Y.
Extremism
1984-Present

This era was characterized by terrorist incidents carried out by Right-wing groups who had a deep seeded hatred for the Federal government and its policies.

1984: The Order, a white supremacist group, assassinates Alan Berg a Jewish talk show host.

1986: Member of extremist group the Committee of the States, dies in a shootout with California state Police.


1993: Siege at Waco, TX leaves 4 federal agents and 76 Branch Davidians dead.
Extremism
1984-Present

1995: Alfred P. Murrah building is bombed in Oklahoma City, OK, killing 168.

1996: 16 armed members of the militia group the Freemen, barricade themselves on an isolated Montana ranch.

1999: White supremacist Benjamin Nathaniel Smith, kills 2 and wounds 8 in a shooting rampage in Illinois and Indiana.
International Terrorism
1980-Present

Rather than home grown terrorist or groups with affiliation to another nation, terrorism in this era was characterized by its international scope and loose confederation of members.

Importantly, while several high publicity incidents occurred within the U.S. not all targets are on U.S. soil.


1988: Libyan terrorist kill 270 in bombing of Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland.
International Terrorism
1980-Present

1993: Truck bombing of World Trade Center in N.Y.C. by Islamic extremists, killing 6 and wounding 1,000’s


2000: Al qaeda bombs the USS Cole in Yemmen, killing 17 and wounding 40.

9/11/01
September 11th Quiz

1. Approximately what time did the first plane hit the World trade Center?

2. Approximately how long after the first plane hit did the second tower collapse?

3. How fast were the planes traveling when they hit the buildings?

4. How many people died in the attacks?

5. How many people escaped the towers from above the floors where the planes hit?

6. Who was the reported mastermind of the 9/11 attacks?

7. What group was behind the attacks?

8. How many people have been charged with in U.S. in terrorism-related investigations since 2001?
Cyber casualties of September 11th and Cyber Infrastructure Protection post 9/11

If it’s a major cyber-event, it’s going to have a physical tail. If it’s a major physical event, it’s going to have a cyber-tail. And as a result you can’t separate physical from cyber.

Brenton Green
Deputy Manager, National Communications System
Assignment 2

1. Pick ONE of the historical terrorism incidents in the U.S. and write a 2-3 page summary of what happened and its impact on the U.S. In this write up provide all relevant details as well as major impacts on the legal system, civil liberties, terrorism response, etc. Alternatively, if you can’t find enough about any one incident, you can write about the historical PERIOD (radicalism) and the incidents that occurred during that time period.

2. Answer the basic questions from the 9/11 quiz. In addition, provide a write up of the CYBER casualties from 9/11. Specifically, what was the impact of 9/11 on U.S computer systems, phone lines, Internet traffic and any and all other cyber aspects.

Due Date: Email your assignments to me by 5:00 on September 19th.
End of Lecture 2