Section I: Introduction to Terrorism

What is Terrorism?

How would you define terrorism?

What are the necessary elements of a terrorist act or of terrorism?

How does terrorism differ from extremism or are they the same thing?

Extremism: Quality that is radical in opinion, especially in political matters. It is characterized by intolerance toward opposing interests and divergent opinions.

Can you be an extremist and not be a terrorist?

Can you be a terrorist and not an extremist?

What is Terrorism?

Is a Hate crime terrorism?

Hate Crime: Behaviors that are considered to be bias-motivated crimes.

Are hate groups terrorists?

Is the KKK a hate group or a terrorist group?

Is Al Qaeda a hate group or a terrorist group?

What makes the KKK and Al Qaeda different?

What is Terrorism?

CIA Definition

The Intelligence community is guided by the definition of terrorism contained in Title 22 of the US Code, Section 2656f(d)

The term "terrorism" means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.

The term "terrorist group" means any group that practices, or has significant subgroups that practice, international terrorism.

What is Terrorism?

U.S. State Department Definition

Premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.

What is Terrorism?

Department of Defense Definition

The unlawful use of, or threatened use, of force or violence against individuals or property to coerce and intimidate governments or societies, often to achieve political, religious, or ideological objectives.

What is Terrorism?

FBI Definition

The unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance or political or social objectives.

What is Terrorism?

U.S. Code

International terrorism: Means activities that

    (A) involve violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State, or that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or of any State;

    (B) appear to be intended

        (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population;

        (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or

        (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping;

    and

    (C) occur primarily outside the territorial jurisdiction of the United States, or transcend national boundaries in terms of the means by which they are accomplished, the persons they appear intended to intimidate or coerce, or the locale in which their perpetrators operate or seek asylum;

What is Terrorism?

U.S. Code

Domestic terrorism: Means activities that:

    (A) involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State;

    (B) appear to be intended

        (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population;

        (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or

        (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping;

    and

    (C) occur primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States.

What is Terrorism?

United Nations Definition

Currently the UN has NO established definition of terrorism.

The UN has been arguing about a definition of terrorism since 1937.

This is largely a function of the disagreements about what constitutes terrorism and the old maxim that "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter".

Proposed Definitions

League of Nations Convention (1937): All criminal acts directed against a State and intended or calculated to create a state of terror in the minds of particular persons or a group of persons or the general public.

Schmid report to UN Crime Branch (1993):

Act of Terrorism = Peacetime Equivalent of War Crime

What is Terrorism?

Established Academic Definition

"Terrorism is an anxiety-inspiring method of repeated violent action, employed by (semi-) clandestine individual, group or state actors, for idiosyncratic, criminal or political reasons, whereby - in contrast to assassination - the direct targets of violence are not the main targets. The immediate human victims of violence are generally chosen randomly (targets of opportunity) or selectively (representative or symbolic targets) from a target population, and serve as message generators. Threat- and violence-based communication processes between terrorist (organization), (imperilled) victims, and main targets are used to manipulate the main target (audience(s)), turning it into a target of terror, a target of demands, or a target of attention, depending on whether intimidation, coercion, or propaganda is primarily sought"

Schmid (1988)

What is Terrorism?

Definitional Element	Frequency
Violence, force	83.5%
Political	65%
Fear, terror emphasized	51%
Threat	47%
Psych effects and anticipated reactions	41.5%
Victim-target differentiation	37.5%
Purposive, planned, systematic	32%
Method of combat	30.5%
Without humanitarian constraints	30%
Coercion, extortion, induction of compliance	28%

What is Terrorism?

Definition Problems

Bottom line, Terrorism is a political phenomenon and definitions often depend on both semantics and worldview.

In particular, with terrorism the old adage that "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter" is vitally important.

Your view of an incident will depend on if you are a terrorist, a terrorist supporter, a victim, or an onlooker.

Each individual has a different interpretation of an event and would define an incident in a completely different manner.

Types of Terrorism

Are there different types of terrorism?

Just as the definition of terrorism is multi-faceted, terrorism comes in many different forms and types.

<u>Main Types of Terrorism</u>

1. State Sponsored Terrorism

2. Dissident Terrorism

3. Religious Terrorism

4. Criminal Terrorism

5. International Terrorism

State Sponsored Terrorism

Definition: Terrorism committed by governments and quasi-governmental agencies and personnel against perceived enemies.

State Terrorism can be directed internally against domestic enemies, or externally against adversaries in the international domain.

Terrorism by states is characterized by official government support for policies of violence, repression, and intimidation.

State terrorism is usually the most organized and potentially the most far-reaching application of terrorist violence.

State Sponsored Terrorism

Example: In El Salvador in the 1980's a Marxist movement fought to overthrow a U.S. backed government. To counter this threat, right-wing death squads worked with the Salvadoran security services to eliminate government opponents, leftist rebels, and their supporters.

China: More recently, several intelligence related organizations in the U.S. have accused the Chinese government of State sponsored Cyber terrorism against the U.S.

In November 2006, an attack that compromised the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security servers was traced back to Chinese servers.

Others claim recent attacks on the U.S. military and military contractors, as well as Google, are all part of state backed efforts from China.

State Sponsored Terrorism

State Initiated Genocide

Rwanda: Hutu government killed approximately 500,000 Tutsi in supposed retaliation for assassination of Rwandan president.

Cambodia: In order to impose a new regime Khmer Rouge killed up to 2 million educated people, city dwellers, Buddhists and upper class Cambodians

United States: As part of the settlement of the west, the U.S. annihilated whole tribes and resettled others to inhospitable locations.

Dissident Terrorism

Definition: Terrorism committed by non-state movements and groups against governments, ethno-national groups, religious groups, and perceived enemies.

Also called terrorism from below.

Much of dissident terrorism is anti-state in nature, directed at existing governments and political institutions with the aim of de-stabalizing the existing government in order to build a new government.

These terrorists are often associated with freedom fighters attempting to overthrow a perceived unjust government or to establish a new separatist state within an existing country.

Dissident Terrorism

Examples:

ETA: Basque separatists fighting for a separate region of Spain.

FARC: Marxist group fighting to overthrow the existing Columbian government.

IRA: Catholic N. Ireland nationals fighting to have home rule by Irish majority not British.

PLO: Palestinian group fighting to restore their claimed country from Israeli invaders.

Chechen Rebels: Fighting against Russian occupation of Chechnya and the creation of a new Islamic state.

**More recently, the Arab spring activities that brought down Libya and Egypt could be considered Dissident Terrorism.

Religious Terrorism

Definition: Terrorism that is motivated by an absolute belief that an other worldly power has sanctioned, and commanded, the application of terrorist violence for the greater glory of the faith.

Acts that are committed in the name of faith will be forgiven by the other worldly power and perhaps rewarded in the afterlife.

Religious terrorism has become the predominant model for political violence in the modern world.

**Religious extremism has become a central issue in the global community.

In the modern era, religious terrorism has increased in its frequency, scale of violence and global reach.

Importantly, this is one of the oldest forms of terrorism

Religious Terrorism

It is important to realize that while, many view religious terrorism as a new phenomenon, it is one of the oldest sources of conflict and terrorism in the world.

Religion can be both a Primary and Secondary motive for terrorist groups.

Primary: It is the very core of the groups political, social, and revolutionary agenda.

Example: Jihadi groups in the middle east.

Secondary: Religion represents one aspect of the terrorist groups identity and agenda. For many ethno-nationalist and revolutionary movements, religion is a secondary motive behind independence.

Example: N. Ireland where religion is second to home rule.

Criminal Terrorism

Definition: Motivated by sheer profit, they accumulate profit from criminal activity to sustain their movements.

While traditional criminal enterprises accumulate profits for their own personal pleasure, criminal terrorists generate profits in order to fund political movements.

In a nutshell, these groups use violence and crime to help provide funding for their political dissident terrorist actions.

Crime is merely a means to an end for criminal terrorists.

These groups are the beginning of the formation of hybrid groups that combine characteristics of both traditional terrorist groups and criminal organizations.

      Narco-terrorism

      Cyber-crime terrorism

Criminal Terrorism

Narco-Terrorism: The use of drug trafficking to advance the objectives of certain governments and terrorist organizations.

Cybercrime-Terrorism: The use of cybercrime activities to help fund and advance the objectives of terrorist organizations.

Often closely tied to organized crime entities.

Taliban: Uses opium and heroin production to help fund jihad and overall political movement.

FARC: Uses cocaine and general drug trade to help fund terrorism and insurgency against Columbian government.

Tamil Tigers: Uses arms and drug trades to help fund independence movement within Sri Lanka.

International Terrorism

Definition: When the target is an international symbol and when the political-psychological effects go beyond a purely domestic agenda.

Importantly, International terrorism has several characteristics which make it different and unique.

Globalized Revolution: Motivation for terrorism is an attack on numerous different global movements such as imperialism, neocolonialism, and zionism.

Other groups are intent on ending old world notions of colonialism.

International Terrorism

Globalized Solidarity: International terrorist groups often talk and network together despite often disparate goals.

The enemy of my enemy is my friend.

This is not a tightly coupled terrorist network as much as it is several disparate groups that provide assistance to each other when they feel it suits them best

•*Communication*: Sharing of training ideas, tools of the trade and some intel and information.

•*Support*: Logistics, training and financial (sometimes) support for others causes and tactics.

Al Qaeda and Chechnya: Al Qaeda and Chechen rebels have a loose partnership in which AQ has helped train and provide support for the Chechens

International Terrorism

Cell Based Terrorism: Movement that is based on small cells that are loosely affiliated with each other under a common cause or ideal.

Most often united under a common enemy or general cause

Religion, Anti-Western

These groups have little funding or support from states and maintain their autonomy through their own finances.

**Internet and globalization are central to cell-based terrorism, as they provide the means for communication without close physical connections.

Allows for autonomy with communication

**Most difficult type of terrorism to counter

Assignment 1

Exercise: Create your own definition using whatever sources you want. In creating your definition, you must provide a rationale (discussion) for the sections you have included or excluded.

In addition, make an argument for which form of terrorism is the most prevalent today as well as which form of terrorism is the biggest threat to the U.S. today (They may be different).

Importantly, in writing your response paper make sure to CITE ALL resources that you used and you MUST use outside resources.

Total length: 2-5 pages.