

TERRORISM

Terrorism is the weapon of the outlaw against the oppressor. A form of asymmetric warfare, terrorism opposes the state-sponsored violence of soldiers and policemen.

In technologically advanced states which have a rich and developed infrastructure, terrorism is more likely than traditional guerrilla warfare.

The citizens of rich states--softened by luxury and wealth--cannot endure the privations, sacrifices, and burdens of a traditional insurgency--so they are incapable of waging a guerrilla campaign in the countryside. They are suitable only for terrorism in the cities.

Curiously, the word "terrorism" was originally coined by Maximilien Robespierre during the French Revolution. Originally, a practitioner of terrorism was someone who used violence to foster democracy and equality.

TERRORISM, COMPUTERS AND

The Internet is an interconnected web of computers. Intentionally decentralized, it was developed in the 1960's because the Americans--during the "Cold War"--believed that their communications were vulnerable.

Today, terrorists may use the Internet as a weapon. From anywhere on the planet--and at virtually no cost--a "cyberterrorist" may electronically break into a computer system and cause havoc. During the entire attack, the cyberterrorist can remain anonymous and escape capture, injury, or death.

Nuclear weapons, sensitive military systems, and the computer systems of institutions such as the C.I.A. and the F.B.I. are "air-gapped" (they are not connected to the Internet), and they are actually inaccessible to outside "hackers." But critical infrastructure in the financial and service sectors of advanced economies are networked through computers and are vulnerable.

Islamic cyberterrorists--specifically, the Abu Hafs el-Masri Brigades, an al-Qaeda satellite--claimed that they caused the "Great Blackout" in the United States and Canada on August 14, 2003. A massive electric-utility failure, fifty million people were affected when "the soldiers of God" "darkened the lives of Americans." During the episode, sixteen nuclear power plants automatically shut down.

TERRORISM, DEFENSE AGAINST

The most civilized defense against terrorism is the so-called "Sanctuary Doctrine" pursued by France. To protect the country from transnational terrorism, the government maintains strict neutrality and promotes the idea that terrorists in France have "nothing to achieve and nothing to fear."

TERRORISM, EFFECTIVENESS OF

Guerrilla warfare succeeded in Yugoslavia, China, Vietnam, and Cuba in the last fifty years of the twentieth century. Terrorism has had fewer successes.

Both the Irish and the Israelis, however, used terrorism to establish their modern states. The operative groups were the Irish Republican Army and the Irgun Zvai Leumi.

TERRORISM, ENTREPRENEURIAL

Entrepreneurial terrorism is terrorism for profit. Entrepreneurial terrorists use extortion, robbery, or kidnapping to raise money. Or, they sell their terrorist abilities to a buyer.

The Macedonian Revolutionary Organization was an entrepreneurial terrorist group. They began as a nationalist society in 1900, but became a "criminal-for-hire" murder squad by World War II.

TERRORISM, FIGHTING AGAINST

In South America, when traditional police methods failed to stop terror, the state applied massive violence. The offensive, called the "Dirty War," crushed dissent and committed atrocities against activists. In effect, the state fought terror with terror.

The classic "Dirty War" occurred in Argentina in 1976-77. After a coup d'état had ousted Eva Peron in 1976, the Argentine army, assisted by death squads such as the Argentine Anticommunist Alliance, kidnapped, tortured, and executed without trial urban guerrillas, their sympathizers, and others considered dangerous. Perhaps fifteen thousand men, women, and children disappeared.

One technique was to throw living people into the ocean from airplanes. According to Captain Adolfo Scilingo--who made a public confession in 1995--the Argentine military threw more than 1,500 leftists, radicals, and "undesirables" to the sharks.

General Iberico Saint-Jean, a provincial governor in the Argentine military state, made this declaration: "First we kill all the subversives; then, their collaborators; later, those who sympathize with them; afterward, those who remain indifferent; and finally, the undecided."

Once terrorism endangers the state--there is no mercy from the state. Legal restraints and moral scruples are ignored.

TERRORISM, HISTORY OF

The Sicarii of first-century Palestine and the Assassins from the eleventh-century Muslim world were early terrorists.

Modern terrorism, however, was forged in nineteenth-century Russia. In 1878, a pamphlet entitled *Death for Death* articulated the principles of terror.

In 1879 thirty Russian radicals formed a political conspiracy to bring down the tsar. Their organization was the first political terrorist organization in history--the model of all others.

The terror in Russia came in two waves: the late 1870's and the early twentieth century. Early Russian terrorists were selfless young people who wanted to sacrifice themselves so that Russia would have a better future.

Albert Camus, writing on Russian terrorism, made this memorable statement: "The entire history of Russian terrorism can be summed up in the struggle of a handful of intellectuals to abolish tyranny, against a background of a silent populace."

Camus noted that "entirely on their own" and "in defiance of the most integrated absolutism of the time," the terrorists helped to liberate millions of people. "Almost all" of the terrorists "paid for this liberation by suicide, execution, prison, or madness."

Although their victory was finally betrayed, Camus noted that their actions were "exemplary, if not efficacious."

Thanks to the writings of men such as Sergi Nachaev and Mikhail Bakunin, the ideas of terrorism would spread though Europe, the United States, and elsewhere.

In the twentieth century, terrorism would trigger World War I. Terrorism, moreover, would help win the freedom of Ireland, Israel, and Algeria.

TERRORISM, LITERARY

Robert W. Chambers, in *The King in Yellow*, has a story of a book so evil that its perusal caused dire consequences. H.P. Lovecraft also used the idea. He called his wicked text the *Necronomicon*.

Literary terrorism, to apply the words of the notorious Marquis de Sade, is the act of writing a "monstrous" or "accursed" book that causes "a chaos of such proportions" that it inspires others to commit crimes.

Because the evils caused by a dangerous book can be perpetual--a book or pamphlet can continue to cause havoc and "moral crimes" long after the author has decomposed in the grave--literary terrorism may be the ultimate weapon of terrorism, more dangerous than bombs or daggers.

A number of written texts can be classified as forms of literary terrorism. In addition to the Marquis de Sade's own *The Hundred and Twenty Days of Sodom* (a catalog or list of every possible form of sexual depravity), one may include *The Science of Revolutionary Warfare* (a bomb-making manual for terrorists) by Johann Most, and *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, (an anonymous anti-Semitic text that first surfaced in tsarist Russia).

TERRORISM, MADNESS AND

In a haunting passage, the novelist Joseph Conrad wrote--in *The Secret Agent*--that "madness alone is truly terrifying, inasmuch as you cannot placate it either by threats, persuasion, or bribes."

Conrad added that to qualify as an insane terror incident "the attack must have all the shocking senselessness of gratuitous blasphemy."

In twentieth-century Germany, Dr. Wolfgang Huber and his wife started the "Socialist Patients' Collective." In the insane asylum where Dr. Huber worked, he trained psychiatric patients to be terrorists to fight the society that had made them sick. Their slogans were "Therapy through Violence," "Bomb for Mental Health," and "Kill for Inner Peace."

TERRORISM (PERFECT SPOKESMAN FOR)

When a terror organization needs to disseminate battle instructions, disinformation, or propaganda, the perfect spokesman is a dead man that the world thinks is alive.

By using computers and modern technology, terrorists can fabricate the dead man's image and voice. The message can then be delivered through videos, audio recordings, and Internet sites.

Since a dead spokesman cannot be captured or killed, he can also be used as the

perfect "figurehead."

TERRORISM, SELECTIVE

To target certain groups, terrorists target the group's peculiar habits.

For example, intentionally spreading the so-called "mad cow disease"--a disease found in tainted beef--would be an ideal weapon for Hindu terrorists (who do not eat beef) to use against non-Hindus (who do eat beef).

In like manner, radical Muslim or Jewish terrorists could target pork-eaters, and radical vegetarian terrorists (who support the rights of animals) could target meat eaters.

On a different level, bigoted Christians could foster lethal venereal infections--such as "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome" (A.I.D.S.)--to eliminate people who indulge in immoral sexual activities. If such infections were endemic, virgins who marry virgins would be safe, as long as they remain faithful to their spouses.

TERRORISM, SEXUALITY OF

According to Robin Morgan, the author of *The Demon Lover: The Sexuality of Terrorism*, the real cause of terrorism is not the so-called sponsors, such as communists or radical Muslims.

Instead, terrorism springs from the male psyche. Terrorism occurs, according to Morgan, because violence is sexually exciting for males.

The terrorist, according to Morgan, is the "ultimate sexual idol of a male-centered cultural tradition." Apparently, firing automatic weapons is sexually exciting, and explosively spewing bullets is similar to explosively spewing streams of semen.

Interestingly, the Weather Underground, a leftist terror group in the U.S.A., used the slogan "wargasm."

TERRORISM (STATE-SPONSORED)

Organized states can secretly use terror groups as "guns for hire" to attack other states. A kind of "warfare by proxy," surrogate warfare is cheaper than ordinary war. The sponsoring state simply has to provide weapons, documents, information, and money to their favored terrorists.

And, if secrecy is maintained, surrogate warfare is a relatively risk-free method of attacking another country.

There is some evidence that the Japanese Red Army was hired by Libya in the 1980's for terror actions. By using the diplomatic pouch to supply the Japanese terror group, the Libyans could move anything into a target country free of inspection under the cover of diplomatic immunity. The "pouch--which could contain a bomb--could be the size of a briefcase or could be a freighter labeled "spare parts."

The 1991 Gulf War increased interest in surrogate warriors. The overt invasion of Kuwait was punished, but if Iraq had used surrogates to attack Kuwait--or even America--it could have escaped identification and retaliation.

Was the destruction of the World Trade Center in 2001 an Iraqi-sponsored attack? Perhaps. Or, it could have been sponsored by the intelligence services of Serbia.

By secretly hiring Muslim extremists, the Serbs could have avenged America's aggression in the Kosovo War, discredited Serbia's Muslim enemy, and avoided all reprisals. All this for a cost of approximately five hundred thousand dollars.

TERRORISM (STATE-SPONSORED), ATROCITIES AND

Horribly, since state-sponsored terrorists do not need the support of the local population, state-sponsored terrorists are indifferent to public opinion. They can therefore carry out more destructive attacks. Indeed, they are free to commit atrocities.

TERRORISM (TECHNIQUES OF)

According to Sergius Stepniak, the Russian terrorist, terror attacks are not employed to overthrow a government, but to compel it to neglect everything else.

Like the guerrilla, the terrorist attacks weakness. The terrorist engages in 1) material terror (sabotage and disruption), 2) personal terror (acts against enemy soldiers and government officials), and 3) total terror (acts against the general public). Total terror is supposed to create pure anxiety, so that the people clamor for any settlement.

According to the Turner Diaries, "One of the major purposes of political terror, always and everywhere, is to force the authorities to take reprisals and become more repressive, thus alienating a portion of the population. . . . And the other purpose is to create unrest by destroying the population's sense of security and their belief in the invincibility of the government."

The strategy is as follows:

1. Terrorist attacks begin with bombing, hostage-taking, and assassination. All targets have high visibility and symbolic importance.
2. The attacks make the government appear inept and incapable of protecting the public. This fosters anxiety among the people.
3. As the terrorist assaults continue, their attacks--seemingly at will--make the terrorists appear omnipotent and invincible.
4. Since humans are drawn to strength, the striking contrast between the power of the terrorists and the impotence of the government increases the popular support for the terrorists.
5. As the government becomes more beleaguered, the attacks promote government overreaction such as martial law, mass arrests, trials without due process, and censorship.
6. Finally, the repression of the government and the terror of the terrorists creates the climate for revolution.

TERRORISM, WEAPONS AND

Although the dagger--and later the pistol--were the original tools of the terrorist, in later years a wide variety of weapons have been used.

The terror bomb was first used in the Napoleonic Age. By the late nineteenth century, it had become the weapon of choice for anarchists.

The standard bomb is the pre-positioned bomb. Such weapons are usually deployed in pairs. The first device drives the frightened crowds into the path of a secondary explosion.

To destroy a home, terrorists sometimes target the natural gas utility. A gas leak has a built-in timer (the gas must first saturate the air)--and a built-in ignition system is the pilot light of any gas appliance.

The letter bomb--or, more commonly, the parcel bomb--was first proposed in the late nineteenth century. The typical parcel bomb is a hollowed-out book filled with explosives. A common trigger is a mousetrap attached to incendiaries.

The vehicle bomb was first deployed in 1920. Invented by Mario Buda, an Italian anarchist, he parked a horse-drawn wagon loaded with stolen dynamite and scrap iron on Wall Street in New York City. More than thirty people were killed by the explosion.

In 1970, four American college students revolutionized the car bomb by building one from cheap and commercially available ingredients (ammonium nitrate and fuel oil).

Today, trucks and vans can carry the explosive equivalent of a B-24 heavy bomber from World War Two. If the vehicle is semi-trailer size, it can carry the equivalent of sixty tons of TNT.

A variation on the vehicle bomb uses a boat or a ship. On October 12, 2000 a small boat laden with explosives inflicted lethal damage on an American naval vessel.

Yet another variation involves using an airplane as a weapon. Aircraft can be lethal (if the speed is doubled, the energy is quadrupled--if the speed is tripled, the energy increases nine times), and they were used with great effect on September 11, 2001. Samuel Byck, who tried to crash a commercial airliner into the Richard Nixon White House in 1974, was the first person who tried to use aircraft in such a fashion.

TERRORISM (WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION)

Terrorists--especially those interested in megaterrorism--may use weapons of mass destruction.

One terrorist scenario (described by Ken Alibek) involves a "Human Biological Weapon." A terrorist inoculated against a specific form of infection (such as smallpox) carries a sample of the agent on to an airplane headed for New York, Paris, or Moscow. In flight, the crew and the passengers would become infected. The infected would then disperse throughout the city--or even depart for other cities--before anyone noticed symptoms. Since the smallpox virus has an incubation period of two weeks, millions could become infected before the world realized it had been attacked.

In another version of the "Human Biological Weapon," a suicide operative deliberately infects himself with a lethal disease, such as the Ebola virus. He spreads the illness far and wide before succumbing.

In terms of naked destructiveness, however, the ultimate terrorism weapon of mass destruction is an atomic or thermonuclear bomb.

According to one estimate, exploding a one-kiloton bomb at "Times Square" in New

York City would immediately reduce the American Gross National Product by 3 percent. And, since half a million people crowd the area within a half-mile radius of Times Square during a normal business day, the casualties would be horrific.

The one-kiloton device would produce blast, heat, radiation, and fallout. The fireball would be three hundred feet across, and the crater would be 120 feet deep. Buildings within six hundred feet would collapse. People one-quarter of a mile away would be killed or maimed by the heat. Radiation would quickly kill those one-half of a mile away. The mushroom cloud would be ten thousand feet high, and the radioactive fallout would start arriving in twenty-four hours. The victims of the fallout would die within two weeks. Hundreds of miles away, cancer rates would rise.

If such a weapon were pre-positioned, there would be no warning. In the middle of a speech--or during an elegant state dinner--the most powerful man on Earth could be reduced to a shadow on a concrete slab.

And, if deployed anonymously--especially by domestic terrorists--there would be no identifiable "return address." In other words, the terrorists staging the attack could do so without fear of reprisal.

Although biological and nuclear weapons are terrifying, the future may hold additional horrors, such as weapons not yet developed.

Some day, an "anti-matter bomb" may be perfected. A quantity of matter meeting an equal quantity of anti-matter would result in the annihilation of both, and the energy released would be far greater than that released by a thermonuclear bomb.

TERRORIST GROUPS, FINANCE OF

To pay for their campaign, terrorists use crime. Having already abandoned traditional morality--viewing themselves as "beyond good and evil"--terrorists finance their agendas by robbing, kidnapping, extorting, hijacking, smuggling, and selling illegal drugs.

The Irish terrorists have used everything from video piracy to armed robbery to raise money, and in 1995 they teamed up with Irish gangsters to steal three million pounds sterling.

TERRORIST GROUPS, ORGANIZATION OF

Traditionally, terror groups tactically divide into sections: 1) an overt propaganda arm that always stays within the law, and 2) attack units, who sabotage, bomb, and assassinate.

The attack units may be underground phantom cells--or lone wolves who may have no links to a central command.

The typical operative--who stages the assaults--is an activist dabbling in weekend terrorism. He will have a normal occupation and a regular identity.

The Provisional IRA (PIRA) deploys cells consisting of four or five individuals who arm and finance themselves, select their own targets, and carry out their own missions. The commander of a cell, through an assumed name, may have contact with a PIRA command quartermaster for explosives or weapons.

TERRORIST GROUPS, SIZE OF

By definition, terror groups are small in size. If too many terrorists are involved in an operation, it is difficult for them to escape after an attack.

Also, if a terrorist group becomes too large overall, its stealthiness is compromised and penetration by informants becomes easier.

Lehi (also called the Stern Gang, after its leader Abraham Stern), the classic Israeli terror group, had about two hundred to three hundred active members. The Japanese Red Army, the Baader-Meinhof Gang, the Red Brigades, and the Symbionese Liberation Army were all diminutive. The largest of these, the Red Brigades, had fifty active members. The smallest, the Symbionese Liberation Army, had eight members.

TERRORIST, MIND OF

According to one observer, "the terrorist is fundamentally a violent intellectual." Fighting for a cause, the terrorist is altruistic--not selfish.

Generally speaking, in terms of motivation, there are two kinds of terrorists: 1) the terrorist who wants to punish his father and 2) the terrorist who wants to avenge his father.

The first rejects everything that his father represents: the establishment, the law, and traditional morality.

The second, in contrast, has seen his father unjustly treated by society--exploited, tortured, murdered--and he wants revenge for the horrors.

In terms of final goals, there are three types of terrorists.

The most ferocious type believes that the "system" is a monster that must be pulverized. Committed to regeneration through violence, he wants to destroy civilization and live off its corpse.

The second type--rather less dangerous--believes that disrupting the "system" will purify it.

And the third type of terrorist--the least destructive of all--simply wants to see something in flames, such as the White House, the Kremlin, or the Vatican.

TERRORISTS, PUBLIC CLAIMS OF

Taking credit invites retaliation. So extreme terror groups, such as the Supreme Truth cult, do not take credit for their operations.

In contrast, more moderate groups, such as the Irish Republican Army--will claim credit for propaganda purposes.

And, to minimize casualties, the Irish Republican army will even warn the police before a specific attack.

TERRORIST, PUBLIC FACE OF

Regarding the public face of the terrorist, the classic manual is by the Red Brigades, a pamphlet entitled Security Rules and Work Methods.

The manual suggests that terrorists should be inconspicuous, they should appear to

be regularly employed, they should rent apartments which do not have resident landlords, and they should avoid streets with public buildings that could be used by police spies.

Terrorists should also retain as little compromising material as possible. They should keep weapons and essential equipment in bags ready for a quick escape.