

Left-Wing and Right-Wing Terrorism

- SRA-211, Threat of Terrorism and Crime
- Penn State Altoona
- Larry Garvin

Left-wing terrorism

- **Left-wing terrorism** (sometimes called **Marxist–Leninist terrorism** or **revolutionary/left-wing terrorism**) is [terrorism](#) meant to overthrow conservative or [capitalist systems](#) and replace them with liberal or [socialist societies](#).
- **Ideology**
- The ideology of left-wing terrorists is heavily influenced by Marxist and other communist and socialist practice.
- [Narodnaya Volya](#), a 19th-century terrorist group that killed tsar [Alexander II of Russia](#) in 1881, and developed the concept of [propaganda by the deed](#) is a major influence.

Left-wing terrorism

- According to Sarah Brockhoff, Tim Krieger and Daniel Meierrieks, while left-wing terrorism is ideologically motivated, nationalist-separatist terrorism is ethnically motivated.
- They argue that the revolutionary goal of left-wing terrorism is non-negotiable, whereas nationalist terrorists are willing to make concessions.

Left-wing terrorism

- The rigidity of the demands of left-wing terrorists may explain their lack of support relative to nationalist groups. Nevertheless, many on the revolutionary left have showed solidarity for national liberation groups employing terrorism, such as [Irish nationalists](#), the [Palestine Liberation Organization](#) and the South American [Tupamaros](#), seeing them as engaged in a global struggle against capitalism.
- Since nationalist sentiment is fueled by socio-economic conditions, some separatist movements, including the Basque [ETA](#), the [Provisional Irish Republican Army](#) and the [Irish National Liberation Army](#) incorporated communist and socialist ideology into their policies.

Left-wing terrorism

- **History**
- Left-wing terrorism has its roots in 19th and early 20th century [anarchist terrorism](#) and became pronounced during the [Cold War](#). Modern left-wing terrorism developed in the context of the [political unrest of 1968](#). In Western Europe, notable groups included the West German [Red Army Faction](#) (RAF), the Italian [Red Brigades](#), the French [Action Directe](#) (AD), and the Belgian [Communist Combatant Cells](#) (CCC).
- Asian groups have included the [Japanese Red Army](#) and the [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam](#), although the latter organization later adopted [nationalist terrorism](#).
- In Latin America, groups that became actively involved in terrorism in the 1970s and 1980s included the Nicaraguan [Sandinistas](#), the Peruvian [Shining Path](#), and the Colombian [19th of April Movement](#).

Left-wing terrorism

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cy1eRCYSo8w>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1MYMVfyHio&t=103s>

Right-wing terrorism

- Right-wing terrorism is [terrorism](#) motivated by a variety of ideologies and beliefs, including [anti-communism](#), [neo-fascism](#), [neo-Nazism](#), [racism](#), [xenophobia](#).
- This type of terrorism has been sporadic, with little or no international cooperation. Modern radical right-wing terrorism first appeared in western Europe in the 1980s and in eastern Europe following the [dissolution of the Soviet Union](#).

Right-wing terrorism

- Right-wing terrorists aim to overthrow governments and replace them with nationalist or fascist-oriented governments.
- The core of this movement includes neo-fascist skinheads, far-right hooligans, youth sympathizers and intellectual guides who believe that the state must rid itself of foreign elements in order to protect *rightful* citizens. However, they usually lack a rigid ideology.

Right-wing terrorism

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFfc4UWzVB8>

Fascism

- Fascism *'fæʃɪzəm/* is a form of radical authoritarian nationalism that came to prominence in early 20th-century Europe.
- The first fascist movements emerged in Italy during World War I, before it spread to other European countries.
- Opposed to liberalism, Marxism, and anarchism, fascism is usually placed on the far-right within the traditional left-right spectrum.

Fascism

- Fascists saw [World War I](#) as a [revolution](#) that brought massive changes to the nature of war, society, the state, and technology.
- The advent of [total war](#) and the total mass mobilization of society had broken down the distinction between civilians and combatants. A "military citizenship" arose in which all citizens were involved with the military in some manner during the war.
- The war had resulted in the rise of a powerful state capable of mobilizing millions of people to serve on the front lines and providing economic production and logistics to support them, as well as having unprecedented authority to intervene in the lives of citizens.

Fascism

- Fascists believe that [liberal democracy](#) is obsolete, and they regard the complete mobilization of society under a [totalitarian one-party state](#) as necessary to prepare a nation for armed conflict and to respond effectively to economic difficulties.
- Such a state is led by a strong leader—such as a [dictator](#) and a [martial](#) government composed of the members of the governing fascist party—to forge national unity and maintain a stable and orderly society.
- Fascism rejects assertions that violence is automatically negative in nature, and views political violence, war, and [imperialism](#) as means that can achieve national rejuvenation.

Fascism

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUcYU95kCAI&t=6s>

Left/Right Terrorism Defined

- 1789- 1799 - During the French Revolution, those who believed in forming a new republic in France were seated on the left side of the room, while those who supported the old order sat on the right side of the room
- Left generally denotes those who sympathize with less privileged classes – liberals, social democracy, or socialism
- Right is usually associated with those who support free markets and capitalism - conservatives

Ideological Terrorism

- Left and right wing terrorism are based upon ideas and have inspired both nationalist and separatist movements
- They are motivated by ideals and philosophies as opposed to religion or crime

Similarities

- Left wing see themselves as champion to the poor
- Right wing are concerned with nationalism or race
- But they share commonalities

Left/Right Similarities

- Both sides see themselves as revolutionaries, unhappy with modern society
- Dislike democracy
- Consider themselves above normally accepted morality – **this is where the problem of terror begins**
- View their victims as deserving the violence – **SEE!**
- Despite their rhetoric, both are willing to collaborate with international terrorists who do not share their point of view. Thought on this?

Intellectual Differences

- Left wing terrorists tend to be well educated intellectuals who read, analyze and debate. The ideology has a basis in Marxism that the left studies and advocates.
- Right wing terrorists are driven by a mob mentality perhaps best illustrated by Nazi rallies in the 1930's. Like minded people against outside enemies

Left Wing Terrorism review

- Arose during the Vietnam War in the 1960's as a response to the war – opposed the self appointed elite (kings, upper-class)
- See themselves as champions of the downtrodden
- They assume that they represent the people's interests and know what is good for them, regardless of whether or not people agree with them.
Problem?
- Heavily supported by the Soviet Union

Interactions

- Left wing terrorists developed close ties with Palestinian terrorists and other nationalist terror movements
- Exchanged training for operational support
- Nationalists such as the Palestinians adopted leftist slogans and political ideas
- In reality, the Palestinians did not understand or care about leftist ideals

Example Left Wing Groups

- Baader-Meinhof, aka **Red Army Faction** - The Red Army Faction engaged in a series of bombings, assassinations, kidnappings, bank robberies, and shoot-outs with police over the course of three decades.
- **Red Brigades of Italy** - Formed in 1970, the organization sought to create a "[revolutionary](#)" state through [armed struggle](#), and to remove Italy from the [North Atlantic Treaty Organization](#). The Red Brigades attained notoriety in the 1970s and early 1980s with their violent attempts to destabilise Italy by acts of [sabotage](#), bank robberies, kidnappings and murders.
- **French Direct Action** - *Action directe* (AD) was a [French](#) revolutionary group which committed a [series of assassinations](#) and violent attacks in France between 1979 and 1987. Members of *Action directe* considered themselves [libertarian communist](#) who had formed an "[urban guerrilla](#) organization". The French government banned the group.
- **17 November** - [Revolutionary Organization 17 November](#) (also known as 17N or N17) was a long-lasting urban terrorist organization named in commemoration of a [1973 riot against the Greek government](#). By 2001, the group had killed 23 people, including US officials, NATO officials and Greek politicians, magistrates and businessmen. Attempts by the Greek police, the [Central Intelligence Agency](#) (CIA), and [Scotland Yard](#) to investigate the group were unsuccessful. The group was captured in 2002, after one of its members was wounded by a bomb he was carrying.^[44] It has been recognized as a terrorist organization by the Greek State, the US and international law enforcement agencies.

Example Left Wing Groups

- **Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia(FARC)**
- **Japanese Red Army** - The [Japanese Red Army](#) (JRA) was founded in 1969 as the "Red Army Faction" by students impatient with the Communist Party. In 1970, they hijacked a plane to North Korea, where nine of their members were interned. Fourteen members were killed during an internal purge. In 1971, the renamed JRA formed a connection with the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine](#) and established a base in Lebanon. Their major terrorist acts included an armed attack on the Tel Aviv airport, highjacking planes to Libya and Bangladesh, kidnapping the French ambassador to the Hague, and bombing a [United Service Organizations](#) (USO) nightclub in Naples, Italy. By the mid-1990s, their level of activity had declined and the US State Department no longer considered them a terrorist threat. In 2001, their leader announced the dissolution of the group, although some of its members were in prison and others were still wanted by police.
- **Symbionese Liberation Army** - was an American self-styled left-wing revolutionary organization active between 1973 and 1975 that considered itself a [vanguard army](#). The group committed bank robberies, two [murders](#), and other acts of violence.
- **Weather Underground** - The **Weather Underground Organization** (WUO), commonly known as the **Weather Underground**, was an American militant radical left-wing **organization** founded on the Ann Arbor campus of the University of Michigan. Originally called Weatherman, the **group** became known colloquially as the **Weathermen**.

Decline of the Left

- The rise of the left began in 1968 and passed in 1995. The events below are the reasons for the decline
 - Fall of the Berlin Wall and the unification of Germany
 - A liberated Yugoslavia resulted in ethnic conflicts that superseded any Marxist agenda
 - Collapse of the Soviet Union proved that Marxism didn't work and eliminated logistical support
 - Most people didn't buy into their naive political agenda and didn't support the terrorists
 - Still exists in Latin American and Southeast Asia

Left Wing Replaced

- Old habits die hard and oddly the left changed
- The void from the collapse of left wing terrorism was filled by....
 - Right wing terrorism
 - Balkans ethnic terrorism
 - Criminal terrorism

Right Wing Terrorism

- Religious extremists, fascists, Nazis and racists
- Aren't concerned with universal values. Rather, it is about supporting those who look like them, think like them, and worship like them
- These guys tend to behave more like soccer hooligans than organized terrorists
- Violence tends to be sporadic and spontaneous as opposed to managed leftist terrorism

Right Wing Characteristics

- Racial superiority
- The expulsion or marginalization of those who aren't like them
- Often uneducated
- Low intelligence
- Come from broken homes
- May be psychopaths

Right Wing Characteristics

- Use verbal acrobatics such as capitalist are the real villains
- Left wing terrorism failed because the mainstream did not understand the agenda
- In Latin America, left wing terrorism still works because of the poor economic conditions as opposed to the more prosperous European countries
- As long as people live in poverty communist ideas of equality and land distribution will flourish. The hope of a better life.

German Case Study

- German case study in the book is not unique – we like people like us
- American and Russian right wing groups utilize the same ideas
- Right wing terrorism is, like the left, in a state of decline, but social problems could contribute to a right wing rebound

vids

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnC-zSdMSRo>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1MYMVfyHio>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRZiTrekCk>