

# State Sponsored Terrorism

- SRA-211, Threat of Terrorism and Crime
- Penn State Altoona
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# At the halfway point of class, what are your thoughts now on terrorism?

- Have they changed?
- Has your definition of what terrorism changed?
- What are your thoughts on the statement one mans freedom fighter is another mans terrorist?
- Do you have a better understanding of why people would join a terrorist group explain?
- Why is it so important to understand history and politics learning about terrorism?
- What about the psychology of terrorist? What did you learn?
- Where you surprised about the psychological findings and the interviews of terrorist?
- As the terror groups go underground or more secluded, the sociological aspect gets worse. WHY?
- How does groupthink effect terrorist and why is such an important aspect for recruitment?
- Regarding left and right-wing terrorism, do you think you have a better understanding of politics and the types of terror groups? Explain?
- Why is religion such a huge part of terrorism?
- Tell me about religion and terrorism today
- How about money and what it does to people and terrorists?
- What are your thoughts on groups and/countries that support terrorism financially?
- Is Russia run by the mafia?

# State Sponsored Terrorism

- The supreme excellence is to subdue the armies of your enemies without even having to fight them.
- Sun Tzu

# State Sponsored Terrorism

- Is there a difference between terrorism and the use of specific tactics that exploit fear and terror by authorities normally considered "legitimate"?
- Nations and states often resort to violence to influence segments of their population, or rely on coercive aspects of state institutions.
- Just like the idea of equating any act of military force with terrorism described above, there are those who equate any use of government power or authority versus any part of the population as terrorism.

# State Sponsored Terrorism

This view also blurs the lines of what is and is not terrorism, as it elevates outcomes over intentions.

EXAMPLE - Suppression of a riot by law enforcement personnel may in fact expose some of the population (the rioters) to violence and fear, but with the intent to protect the larger civil order.

On the other hand, abuse of the privilege in legitimized violence by the authorities is a crime.

# State Sponsored Terrorism

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But there are times when national governments will become involved in terrorism, or utilize terror to accomplish the objectives of governments or individual rulers.

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Most often, terrorism is equated with "non-state actors", or groups that are not responsible to a sovereign government.

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However, internal security forces can use terror to aid in repressing dissent, and intelligence or military organizations perform acts of terror designed to further a state's policy or diplomatic efforts abroad.

# Soviet Union

- Experienced such savage terror that it is hard to comprehend.
- In 1938, at the communist party meeting Stalin delivered a speech and he had so much power and the ability to strike fear that when people applauded they dare not stop or they could be sent to Siberia.
- It got so bad that Stalin had to use a buzzer to indicate that it was alright to stop clapping and sit down.



# State Sponsored Terrorism as a tool for war

- EXAMPLES

- A government that is an adversary of the United States may apply terror tactics and terrorism in an effort to add depth to their engagement of U.S. forces. **EXTERNAL**
- Repression through terror of the indigenous population would take place to prevent internal dissent and insurrection that the U.S. might exploit. **INTERNAL**
- Military special operations assets and state intelligence operatives could conduct terrorist / extremist operations against U.S. interests both in theater and as far abroad as their capabilities allow. **NOT US**
- Finally, attacks against the U.S. homeland could be executed by state sponsored terrorist organizations or by paid domestic proxies. **SEPERATION**



# State Backed Terrorism

- Definition
  - Terrorism by a government
- The involvement of the state in terrorism takes place on Three levels:
  - The state terrorizes its own population
  - Supports terrorist groups that operate against other states
  - Direct involvement in terrorism

# State terrorizes its own population

- Governmental or "State" terror: Sometimes referred to as "terror from above", where a government terrorizes its own population to control or repress them.
- These actions usually constitute the acknowledged policy of the government, and make use of official institutions such as the judiciary, police, military, and other government agencies.
- Changes to legal codes permit or encourage torture, killing, or property destruction in pursuit of government policy.
- Recent EXAMPLE:

Saddam Hussein used chemical weapons on his own Kurdish population without any particular change or expansion of policies regarding the use of force on his own citizens. They were simply used in an act of governmental terror believed to be self-serving in accomplishing his goals.

# State Terrorizes Own Population

- Brutal repression used to control their own population
- Damage from conventional terrorism is trivial compared to internal state terrorism
  - After assuming power, official Nazi policy was aimed at the deliberate destruction of "state enemies" and the resulting intimidation of the rest of the population.
  - Nazi Germany killed 10-12 million people
  - Stalin's "purges" of the 1930s are examples of using the machinery of the state to terrorize a population. The methods he used included such actions as rigged show trials of opponents, punishing family or friends of suspected enemies of the regime, and extra-legal use of police or military force against the population.
  - Soviet Union killed 15-25 million


# State involvement in terror

State involvement in terror: These are activities where government personnel carry out operations using terror tactics.

These activities may be directed against other nations' interests, its own population, or private groups or individuals viewed as dangerous to the state.

In many cases, these activities are terrorism under official sanction, although such authorization is rarely acknowledged openly.

Historical examples include the Soviet and Iranian assassination campaigns against dissidents who had fled abroad, and Libyan and North Korean intelligence operatives downing airliners on international flights.



## State involvement in terror

- Another type of these activities is "death squads" or "war veterans": unofficial actions taken by officials or functionaries of a regime (such as members of police or intelligence organizations) against their own population to repress or intimidate.
- While these officials will not claim such activities, and disguise their participation, it is often made clear that they are acting for the state.
- Keeping such activities "unofficial" permits the authorities deniability and avoids the necessity of changing legal and judicial processes to justify oppression.
- This is different than "pro-state" terror, which is conducted by groups or persons with no official standing and without official encouragement.
- While pro-state terror may result in positive outcomes for the authorities, their employment of criminal methods and lack of official standing can result in repudiation and punishment of the terrorists, depending on the morality of the regime in question.



# Three Levels Internal State Terror

- Intimidation
- Forced conversion
- Genocide

# Intimidation

- The state controls communication WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?
- Uses force to pressure the population into submission
- Frightens the opposition from engaging in any antigovernment activity
- General persecution, arrest, torture and execution
- EXAMPLE's?



# Intimidation

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XnsYZxH2nI>

# Forced Conversion

- Citizens are compelled to change their political views to follow the government's line DO YOU FEEL THIS HAPPENS TO YOU?
- Radical changes to people's lives, behavior and thinking
- Arrests, torture, executions and brainwashing
- Society is completely controlled
- North Korea is a classic example

# Genocide

- Undesirable ethnic or racial minorities are exterminated
- Motives range from ideology to religion to anything at all
- EXAMPLE's?
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkWldwFdTPo>

# How would you use State sponsored terrorism?

- Get in your groups and give examples of The involvement of the state in terrorism that takes place on Three levels:
- The state terrorizes its own population
- Supports terrorist groups that operate against other states
- Direct involvement in terrorism

# Totalitarianism vs Authoritarianism

- Totalitarianism and Authoritarianism are two types of dictatorship form of government with some difference between the two.
- Both these forms of governance are opposed to the democratic form of government in the sense that the democratic form of government has the power in the hands of people, whereas totalitarianism and authoritarianism forms of government have the power in the hands of an individual.
- When put like this, both these types appear in nature to be like the dictatorship form of governance. However, there are some differences between the two forms of government, namely, totalitarianism and authoritarianism.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAgrp4-s1r8>

# What is Authoritarianism?

- The authoritarianism form of regime is characterized by the **rule of one person or a committee that wields the entire power of governance.**
- The single person in authoritarianism is called the dictator.
- A **dictator** creates a sense of fear in the minds of those that oppose him in the authoritarianism form of regime.
- He rewards such as those who show loyalty towards him and his leadership.

# What is Authoritarianism?

- In short, it can be said that there is an element of fear in the minds of people all through the leadership in the authoritarianism form of regime.
- Moreover, the single ruler in the authoritative form of governance aims at exercising supreme control over people as an individualist.
- He cashes in on the assistance provided by political parties and mass organizations to make people follow him. He uses his power more than the totalitarian.
- In short, an authoritarian can simply be described as a power hungry dictator.



# What is Authoritarianism?

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YU9djt\\_CQM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YU9djt_CQM)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gJGYzRw3Ik>

# What is Totalitarianism?

- On the other hand, totalitarianism is a **complete form or an extreme form of authoritarianism**.
- Everything is totally under the control of the single person called the dictator in the totalitarianism form of governance.
- In other words, it can be said that both the social and economic aspects of the country are also under the control of the government.
- To put it in another way, the **totalitarian** himself handles both these aspects.
- A notable fact about totalitarianism is that in the totalitarianism form of regime the dictator enjoys the behavior about him in the minds of the people.

# What is Totalitarianism?

- He does not impose fear in the minds of those that oppose him.
- That means, unlike authoritarianism, there is no fear in the minds of people all through the leadership in the totalitarianism form of regime.
- The single ruler in the totalitarianism form of governance tries his best to save the people and all his schemes are aimed at the safety and the well-being of the people.

# What is Totalitarianism?

- Moreover, the totalitarian is a complete [ideologist](#).
- His only aim is to officiate as a dictator by maintaining appeal about him felt by the people.
- That is to say, when considering the method of functioning, the totalitarian gets the appreciation of the people by virtue of his sheer prophetic leadership.
- People automatically follow him being pulled by the [power](#) of his leadership.



# Authoritarian and Totalitarian

- Authoritarian governments
  - Mistreat people and the country's resources and money

# Authoritarian and Totalitarian

- Totalitarian governments
  - Actively manipulate the behavior of the entire population to bring everyone into line with the government's policies
  - Total control of the population
  - Willing to use mass murder to gain control of the population
  - Secret police, informants, concentration camps, etc.



# What is the difference between Totalitarianism and Authoritarianism?

- Both totalitarianism and authoritarianism fall under dictatorship of governance.
- The authoritarianism form of regime is characterized by the rule of one person or a committee that wields the entire power of governance.
- Totalitarianism is an extreme form of authoritarianism.



# What is the difference between Totalitarianism and Authoritarianism?

- In authoritarianism, social and economic institutions exist outside the control of the government. Such is not the case with totalitarianism. The government controls everything.
- A leader in authoritarianism controls the people using fear and favoritism.
- Fear to stop people from betraying him and favoriting for those, who help him.
- In totalitarianism, the leader is automatically followed by the people due to his charisma.

# International Law/Loophole

- Part of the problem is that international law says that a state's sovereignty is complete within its own borders
- The reason this very large loophole exists is that some states are concerned that if other nations are allowed to interfere in the internal affairs of another state, it could come back to haunt them

# Terrorism Against Other States

- Countries back terrorists in other countries in order to project power without accepting responsibility, this is a form of state terrorism
- Supporting terrorism is a Foreign policy strategy
- The Goals of this policy are the following:
  - Weaken the other state – tries to make the opponent state comply with their demands
  - Dishearten the other state's population – through terrorism, the government is weakened and the country supporting the terrorism can make changes that they like
  - Demoralize the nation to the point of internal collapse

# Soviet Union

- Soviet Union – openly supported organizations by training and giving logistic help.
- Soviet secret services worked to establish a network of terrorist [front organizations](#) and have been described as the primary promoters of terrorism worldwide.
- According to [Ion Mihai Pacepa](#), General [Aleksandr Sakharovsky](#) from the [First Chief Directorate](#) of the [KGB](#) once said: "In today's world, when [nuclear arms](#) have made military force obsolete, terrorism should become our main weapon.
- "He also claimed that "Airplane hijacking is my own invention".
- [George Habash](#), who worked under the KGB's guidance, explained: "Killing one Jew far away from the field of battle is more effective than killing a hundred Jews on the field of battle, because it attracts more attention."

# Soviet Union

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxMWSmKieuc>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_aF\\_sRXVdoU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_aF_sRXVdoU)

# Iran

- Iran has long been an active sponsor of Islamic terrorism, including accusations of it supporting subversive activities in Iraq.
- Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Ministry of Intelligence and Security were involved in the planning of and support for terrorist acts and continued to exhort a variety of groups that use terrorism to pursue their goals.
- EXAMPLES OF SUPPORT - Lebanese Hezbollah, HAMAS, the Palestine Islamic Jihad, and Ahmad Jibril's PFLP-GC have been provided funding, safe haven, training, and weapons in Iran.

# Syria

- The Syrian Government continued to provide political and material support to both Hezbollah and Palestinian terrorist groups.
- HAMAS, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PLFP), and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command (PFLP-GC), among others, base their external leadership in Damascus.
- The Syrian Government insists that the Damascus-based groups undertake only political and informational activities.



# Syria

- However, in statements originating from outside Syria, many Palestinian groups claimed responsibility for anti-Israeli terrorist acts.
- Syria's public support for the groups varied, depending on its national interests and international pressure.
- In 2003, these groups lowered their public profile after Damascus announced that they had voluntarily closed their offices in Syria.
- In September, however, Syrian President Bashar al-Asad held a highly publicized meeting with rejectionist leaders, and a month later the rejectionist leaders participated in a meeting in Damascus with the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Gholam Ali Haddad Adel. Syria continued to permit Iran to use Damascus as a transshipment point to resupply Hezbollah in Lebanon.

# Syria

- Syrian officials publicly condemned international terrorism, but made a distinction between terrorism and what they considered to be “legitimate armed resistance” by Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and by Lebanese Hezbollah.
- The Syrian Government has not been implicated directly in an act of terrorism since 1986, although preliminary findings of a UN investigation into the February assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri have indicated a strong likelihood of official Syrian involvement.



# Two Types of State Backed Terrorism

- State sponsored terrorism
- State supported terrorism

# State Sponsored

- Intensive involvement in helping a terrorist organization
  - Financing
  - Decision making
  - Control of day to day operations

# State Supported

- More limited assistance
  - Financial
  - Use of territory
  - Political backing
  - **No direct participation in decision making**
  - **They enable terrorism as opposed to directly making it happen**

# Examples & part of homework along with case studies

- Iran-Hezbollah – Iran and the Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah started in the 80's. Gave money, equipment, support, and training.
- Syria-Palestinians – Allows groups to operate attacks on Israel with all the necessary and usual support.
- Greece - strong history of typical support.
- Saudi Arabia-Hamas

# Advantages of Terrorism by Indirect means

- Low cost
  - Financially – not as expensive as conventional war
  - Politically – the international community tends to look the other way, even if it is clear state supported acts of terrorism
- High yield
  - Financially – can profit from the selling of arms , hardware, and supplies
  - Politically – can obtain desirable resets from support without looking bad

# Direct Involvement & part of the homework

- States engage directly in terrorism in other states to silence political opponents and to attack the state directly
- **Pan Am Flight 103**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zq1J32xjiY>
- Common with states that also oppress their own people
- Democracies rarely engage in this



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