

DHP P244: MODERN TERRORISM & COUNTERTERRORISM

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Lesson 4: Terrorist Group Decision-Making

REVIEW/CATCH-UP

Comments/Questions - Week 2: History

- Pursuit of power to bring about (or prevent) change as a central element of terrorism
- Changes (weapons, transportation, finances, communication)

Comments/Questions - Week 3: Radicalization

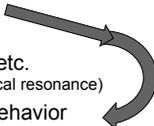
- Local context is key
- Very few terrorist campaigns have been launched because of conditions in an entirely different country
- Communication, Ideological Entrepreneurs, Internet
- Current Events?

THEORY

- A Theory of Terrorism? No such thing
- Theories, however . . .
 - Theories about where, why, etc. (e.g. enablers, facilitators)
 - Theories about who, how, why, etc. (e.g., recruitment, radicalization, ideological resonance)
 - – Theories about terrorist group behavior (e.g., learning, using suicide bombings, WMD, etc.)
 - Theories about combating terrorist groups (e.g. disengagement, deterrence, obliteration, etc.)

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TERRORIST GROUP BEHAVIOR

What do we know about decision-making and other internal dynamics of terrorist groups?

- Examples from your comparative paper research?
- How does ideological type (e.g. "othering") influence choices?

- McCormick
- Shapiro
- Martin & Perlinger

What do we know about the external factors that influence terrorist group decision-making?

- Political and socioeconomic grievances (Lesson 3)
- Political and socioeconomic opportunities/facilitators

OPPORTUNITIES / FACILITATORS

Political

- Weak, failing, failed states, *transitioning* states
- Overthrow of government (e.g., military coup)
- Peace agreement (N. Ireland; Israel/Palestinians)
- Foreign intervention/occupation
- Others?

Socioeconomic

- Impoverished communities (provision of public goods)
- Corruption (especially among security, law enforcement)
- Robust "shadow economy"
- Globalization (transport, finance, information)
- Others?

CASE STUDIES

- What factors have contributed to terrorism in:
 - Turkey
 - Greece
 - Columbia
 - Peru
 - Indonesia
 - India
 - Pakistan
 - Afghanistan
 - Northern Ireland
 - Japan
 - Italy
 - Nigeria
 - Somalia
 - Yemen
 - Mali
 - Lebanon
 - Israel/Palestinian Territories
 - Iraq
 - West Germany
 - United Kingdom
 - United States

Have terrorist groups behaved differently across these cases?

BREAK

CRIMINAL / FINANCIAL

Terrorists need money.

They have to decide how/where to get it . . .

- Forest
- Felbab-Brown
- Eccarius-Kelly
- Naghshpour, St. Marie & Stanton, Jr.

OPERATIONAL COSTS

Costs of terrorist operations can include:

- Subsistence for the perpetrators as they prepare for actions
- The cost of special training and development of expertise critical to the successful completion of the mission
- The purchase and transport of any weapons or explosive materials that are to be used in the attack
- The cost of travel for meetings related to the plan
- The cost of communications among those involved
- "Costs of doing business" (document forgery, money laundering fees, drug trafficking, bribes for corrupt border guards or other government officials, etc.)

OPERATIONAL COSTS

The costs of terrorism are directly related to what the terrorist group decides it wants to do:

- How big should we get (or how small should we stay)?
- What kinds of attacks (weapons, targets), and how frequently should we attack?
- What kinds of information operations should we pursue?
- How much collaboration/transactions do we need with criminal organizations (e.g. for weapons, money laundering, drug trafficking, document forgery, etc.)?

Can terrorist group decision-making about these things be influenced? If so, how?

FUNDING SOURCES

State sponsorship

Diaspora – via extortion, charities (intentional or by diversion)

- Tamil communities in Canada (LTTE)
- Pakistani communities in Western Europe (Kashmir separatists)
- Algerian communities in France (GIA, GSPC, AQIM)
- Moroccan communities in Spain (AQIM)
- Kurdish communities in Germany (PKK/Kongra-Gel)
- Irish Freedom Committee, 40 million Irish-Americans (IRA/PIRA)

Criminal activity

- Trafficking (drugs, weapons, people, counterfeit goods, cigarettes)
- Robbery, kidnapping for ransom
- Fraud, ID theft (increasingly online)

FINANCIAL DIMENSIONS

Money Laundering = process by which proceeds derived from criminal activity are disguised in an effort to conceal their illicit origins and to legitimize their future use.

How does it work? Laundering schemes fall within the three phases of the "money laundering cycle":

- Placement of illegal monies and currency (cash) into the financial system;
- Layering (structuring) transactions to disguise the source of the funds; and
- Integration (reinvestment) of the funds into legitimate businesses.

What is Hawala; how does it work, and how is it different from money laundering?

SUMMARY

- A wide spectrum of political and socio-economic conditions can influence terrorist group decisions and activities
- Relationship between terrorism and financial/economic systems is complex, involving legal and illegal funding methods
- Recent increase in criminal network linkages, mostly transactional and temporary, based on asset transfers, trafficking, money laundering

SAMPLE FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS

- What factors influence a terrorist group's decision about:
 - using (or rejecting) suicide bombings?
 - attacking specific types of targets?
 - engaging in specific types of criminal activity?
 - accepting (or rejecting) a peace deal?
- Describe some specific environmental enablers that may contribute to collaboration between terrorists and criminals
 - for example: economic globalization, corruption, weak political institutions, etc.

QUESTIONS