

UM Symposium on Terrorism

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Historical perspective

- The four waves of modern terrorism

Mass casualties as a tactic

- Theories of success
- Vulnerabilities
- Unintended consequences

Waves of Terrorism

Anarchists: 1880s - 1920s

Anti-Colonial; 1945-1960s

New Left: 1960s - 1990

Jihadi, etc.: 1990s -

Anarchists: Assassinations 1881 – 1902

- 1881 Russia, Czar Alexander II
- 1894 France, President
- 1897 Spain, Prime Minister
- 1898 Austro-Hungarian Empire, Emperor's Wife
- 1900 Italy, King
- 1901 US, President McKinley

- Also: 1914 Archduke of AH, heir to throne

Anti-Colonial Terrorism

1945-1960s

Examples of Wars

British:

- Malay Republic,
- Palestine,
- Kenya

French:

- Algeria,
- Indochina

New Left: 1960s - 1990

- Triggered by Vietnam
- Small groups, small targets
- Ended with collapse of Soviet Union

Jihadi, etc. seek Mass Casualties

None achieved regime change.

9/11

Kashmir, e.g. Mumbai

Japan

Sri Lanka (suicide vest invented)

US , e.g. McVeigh

Chechnya

Regime changes without mass casualties

South Africa

Iran

Vulnerabilities are similar to insurgent's

- Need for secrecy
- Internal divisions;
- Inconsistency in the mob. message
- Need for base of ops
- Reliance on external support,
- Need for money
- Need to maintain momentum
- Informants

Terrorism as a Tactic

- “War on Terror” is like saying “WW II was a war on submarines”
- Tactics previously abandoned
 - Assassination
 - Beheadings
- Current tactics
 - Suicide bombers
 - Rocket attacks
 - Hostage taking

Terrorist's Theories of Success

- Attrition
 - Against Israel
- Provocation
 - 9/11
 - Sunni on Al Askari Mosque in 2006
 - Mumbai (failed)
- Out-bidding
 - Beheadings, 9/11
- Ransom
 - Now mostly private: pirates, Latin American criminals
 - WMD?

A Definition of Terrorism

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

Jihadi Goal:

Unity and Autonomy of Ummah Under Shiria

Requires:

- Mobilization of believers
- Expulsion of outsiders
- Change of Western-oriented regimes

Unintended consequence: DISUNITY

Sunni vs. Shia

- In Iraq
- Between Iran and Saudi Arabia