

Terrorism 恐怖主义

Perhaps no term in IR has been more important and controversial in recent decades, and much of the controversy stems from the difficulty in defining what is, and is not, terrorism. For analytical purposes, this handout assumes that terrorism is a strategy of violence against civilian (i.e. non-military) targets used by non-state actors intended to do collateral damage to a state and its society, as well as to instill fear. Terrorists, then, are those who use violent tactics to pursue this strategy.

Are terrorists rational? Can terrorist tactics ever be justified? If so, when & how? Some apologists justify terrorism as “a weapon of the weak against the strong,” a form of asymmetric warfare 不对称地战争. Do you agree or disagree with this justification?

Can terrorists and terrorist groups be objectively labeled? Can terrorists be distinguished from separatists and other dissident groups which oppose the state or the government? What is the difference between a “terrorist” and a “freedom fighter”? Does an act of terror invalidate the cause of an activist, group, or movement?

What are the causes of terrorism? How do our assumptions about causes influence our understandings of “terrorist” motives and tactics? How do our assumptions influence our counter-terror methods? States like the USA have attempted to counter terrorism, especially as prescribed by state-centric IR Theory, by punishing states which “harbor terrorist groups and individuals,” especially if they are not “willing and able” to address the terrorist threat themselves. This often includes violations of state sovereignty, whether by conventional military force or drones/UAVs 无人机. Can a global “War on Terror” or a “Strike Hard 严打” campaign ever be successful (or ever end)?

Do all states have an interest in ending all forms of terrorism? Therefore, should all states—even those with large, conflicting interests—unite to eradicate ISIS/ISIL and all groups with the “terrorist” label?

Note that most people labeled as “terrorists” reject the label and prefer to call themselves by other terms, such as “separatist, freedom fighter, liberator, revolutionary, vigilante, militant, paramilitary, guerrilla, rebel, patriot, or any similar-meaning word in other languages and cultures.” (Wikipedia)

VOCABULARY “act of terror” Al-Qaeda阿盖达 civil liberties公民自由 conspiracy(做某事的)阴谋 Counter-terror反恐 double-standard双重标准 (一种不平等的制度、规范和准则) Enemy Combatant ETA埃塔 (Basque armed separatist group) ETIM东突厥斯坦伊斯兰运动 extremist激进分子 foil (an attack)阻止 fundamentalism原教旨主义 Guantanamo Bay关塔那摩湾 homegrown terrorism本土的恐怖 hostage人质 Improvised Explosive Device (IED)简易爆炸装置 “Lone Wolf”独狼恐怖分子 motive non-state actor perpetrator犯错者; 罪犯, 肇事者 plot 阴谋 radicalize使更激进 radicalized 辐射状的 recruitment root causes根源原因 screening审查 state-sponsored国家发起的 suicide bomber自杀式袭击者; 自杀性爆炸; 自杀式人体炸弹 suicide vest suspect嫌疑犯 tactic策略, 手段, 战术 (The) Taliban塔利班 terrorist attack恐怖袭击 terrorist cell 恐怖组织分支 tragedy极大的不幸