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Research Guide Series

Terrorism

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Terrorism

Terrorism is most commonly described as a means of intimidation or coercion by groups or individuals used against governments or societies to achieve a specific aim or purpose. More specifically it is the use of violence as a means to a political or ideological end, with the intention of inspiring ‘terror’ in people or to empower political minority groups. There are various reasons behind such acts of terrorism, often based upon political motivations and extremist religious beliefs.

Some of the main types of terrorism are: state terrorism, which involves acts of terrorism by a government; state-sponsored terrorism, where a government gives aid to a terrorist organisation for the purpose of committing acts of terror; and sub-state terrorism, committed by non-state actors which includes social revolutionary terrorism, used to overthrow a social order; and religious extremist terrorism, used to sustain or keep a religious order.

More recent trends in terrorism include: cyber terrorism, whereby terrorism or sabotage is carried out over the internet and via computer networks; ‘weapons of mass destruction’ (WMD) where weapons are used to cause the greatest level of terror and damage – these can include atomic, biological, chemical and nuclear weapons; and Islamic terrorism (also known as ‘Islamist terrorism’ or ‘Jihadist terrorism’), which are acts of terrorism carried out by individuals or groups which can be described as Islamic, or which aims to further the Islamic cause – the most prominent group being Al Qaeda.

This bibliography has been designed to provide a guide as to where to find information on Terrorism. Please note that the list of references below is a selection of the more relevant titles and information on the subject. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive but is an introductory guide to some of the resources available.

Monographs


**Periodical Articles**


Richards, Anthony. *The problem with ‘radicalization’: the remit of ‘prevent’ and the need to refocus on terrorism in the UK*. International Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 1, January 2011, pp. 143-152.


**Websites**

Centre for the study of Terrorism and Political Violence

Home Office- Counter Terrorism

MI5- The Security Service

National Counter Terrorism Security Office

RAND – Terrorism and Homeland Security

Terrorism and National Emergencies

Terrorism Research
UN Action to Counter Terrorism

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See also: Counter terrorism
           Future Trends
           Suicide Terrorism
           Cyber-Warfare

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