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<div align="center">Through Fear and Intimidation: The Nature and Strategy of Terrorism</div>

Terrorism affects modern transnational societies tremendously, often inflicting damages

with severe "human and economic costs" (Savun and Phillips 879). Terrorism, at its most

fundamental concept, can be defined as a "particular kind of asymmetric conflict that is

increasingly perceived as a major international security threat" (Mingst and Arreguin-Toft 278).

Another abstract definition is that terrorism is an "[act] of violence committed against innocent

persons or noncombatants that are intended to achieve political ends through fear and

intimidation" (Deutch 12). The driving force of terrorism is mainly grounded on violence against

civilians and are mostly trying to meld political and religious ideas. Examples of this are the

Jemaah-Islamiyah group, who are trying to establish and propagate a harsher Islamic

government in Indonesia, and the *Al-Jihad* group or the *Egyptian Islamic Jihad*, who are trying

to establish the same in Egypt. Some terrorist groups are purely political by nature, such as the

Communist Party of the Philippines or the *New People's Army*, whose main goal is to "establish

a communist state in the Philippines", and the *Continuity Irish Republican Army*, who aims to

"evict Britain from Northern Ireland" and unify with the Republic of Ireland (Walter and Kydd

473-474). Andrew Kydd and Barbara F. Walter defines terrorism as the "use of violence against

civilians by nonstate actors to attain political goals" and both authors added that "regime change,

territorial change, policy change, social control, and status quo maintenance" persist as the main

goal of terrorism, even though the activity has evolved through time. Regime change is the

"overthrow of government" and the installation of the terrorists' preference. An example of this

is the *Shining Path* terrorist group or *Sendero Luminoso* in Peru aimed for the Marxist control of the state (Walter and Kydd 476). Territorial change deals with the terrorists seeking secession or autonomy (Walter and Kydd 476; Mingst and Arreguin-Toft 280). Examples of this include "the *Tamil Tigers* in Sri Lanka, *Abu Sayyaf Group* in the Philippines and Chechen groups in Russia" (Mingst and Arreguin-Toft 280). Policy change is the demands for policies that will benefit the terrorist group and stop the policies that will deter their aims and goals, "such as *Al-Qaida*'s demand that the United States drop it support for Israel and […] Saudi Arabia" (Walter and Kydd 476). Social control is a goal that targets individuals rather than the state itself. Assassinations and targeting of certain individuals are the premise of terroristic social control. The final goal is the maintenance of status quo. This deals with the goal of maintaining the current status, regime and territorial arrangement of a certain jurisdiction that concerns the terrorist group. An example of this is how "protestant paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland" defended the status of remaining under British sovereignty against the *Irish Republican Army*'s demands of territorial transfer to Ireland (Walter and Kydd 476).

Terrorism, although it has a huge propensity for involving physical attacks, is mainly psychological in essence. The killing and physical atrocities are just by-products of the psychological warfare they wage (Mingst and Arreguin-Toft 279). This is called the strategy of intimidation, where terrorists inflict fear to "persuade the enemy" state "that the terrorists are strong enough to punish disobedience" and showcase the failure of their government to protect them (Walter and Kydd 472). Pronouncement of the target government's illegitimacy through fear is a psychological warfare induced by terrorists and is one of the major goals of terrorism. Terrorists attain this goal by exhibiting the weakness of the target government. An example of this is hostage drama that took place at the 1972 Summer Olympic Games in Munich, Germany.

A group of Palestinian Arabs, who called themselves "Black September", held eleven athletes from Israel hostage within the Olympic Village. Two of the hostages were immediately murdered and the remaining nine were eventually killed. *Black September* was a subsidiary of the *Palestinian Liberation Organization*, which was established in 1994 by Yasser Arafat "to advance the cause of Palestinian Arab statehood by means of violence" (Mingst and Arreguin-Toft 279). The 1972 Summer Olympic Attacks can also be regarded as "the dawn of the modern age of terrorism" (Deutch 11).

Other strategic logics of terrorism include attrition, provocation, spoiling and outbidding. Attrition is the strategy of making the target state think that the terrorist group has the ability to induce a tremendous economic and human cost. The September 11 attacks was partially a strategy of attrition. By attacking the American financial center, *Al-Qaida* attempts "to increase the cost of the US policy of stationing soldiers in Saudi Arabia" (Walter and Kydd 472; 478). Provocation is the strategy "designed to persuade the domestic audience that the target of attacks is evil and untrustworthy and must be vigorously resisted" and it aims to persuade the citizens of the target state to side with the terrorist group (Walter and Kydd 484). An example of this is when the Spanish government retaliated against *Basque Fatherland and Liberty Group* in Madrid. Extremely scrupulous measures were imposed on the Basque community in Madrid. This effective turned many Basque locals in the area against the government and support the terrorist group instead (Walter and Kydd 484-489; Woodworth 7).

Spoiling is another major strategy employed by most terrorist groups. The goal of spoiling "is to ensure that peace overture between moderate leaders in the terrorists' side and the target government do not succeed" (Walter and Kydd 486; Stedman 5-6). In 1979, fifty-two Americans were abducted by Iranian radicals in fear of a pending reconciliation between the

United States and Iran. This event hindered the peace negotiations between the two countries.

The spoiling strategy of terrorists are most effective during the peace negotiation period, when

the two parties are still distrustful of one another (Walter and Kydd 486-487). Outbidding is a

strategy that utilize violence to sway the populace that the terrorist group has a greater willpower

to combat against the enemy than the rival terrorist group, and is therefore worthy of support

(Walter and Kydd 472). An example of outbidding is between the *Al-Qaida* and the *Islamic State*

of Iraq and Syria (formally known as *Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant*). Both groups are

currently competing against each other for "recruits, funds, support and attention in Pakistan and

Afghanistan" (Kaltenthaler). *Al-Qaida* recently coalesced a network subgroup in South Asia

called *Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent* or *AQIS* in an effort to outbid the *Islamic State*,

especially in the Pakistani jurisdiction. They use "causes that are popular with jihadist Muslims,

such as attacking Indian and US targets" (Kaltenthaler).

Terrorism varies in form and aspect which affects their manner of attack. Terrorists have

used a wide array of weapons for attack. "AK-47s, sarin gas, shoulder-fired missiles, anthrax,

backpack explosives, and airplanes" are just a few weapons terrorists have used in recent history

(Mingst and Arreguin-Toft 280). While most opt for direct physical attacks using firearms and

bombs, some terrorists opt for the use of chemical and biological weapons. Japanese cult and

designated terrorist group *Aum Shinrikyo* attacked a Tokyo subway system in 1995 by releasing

huge amounts of the deadly nerve agent sarin gas within the subway (Deutch 11). The 2001

Anthrax attacks was also a highlighted case in bioterrorism. According to the Federal Bureau of

Investigation, in 2001, letters traced with Anthrax powder "began appearing in the US mail".

Known as "the worst biological attacks in US history", the Anthrax attacks killed five Americans

and injured seventeen individuals. A scientist by the name of Bruce Ivins was suspected as one

of the major perpetrators. He later committed suicide before any charges against him were filed (fbi.gov). Another type of terrorism is cyberterrorism. Cyberterrorism is a recent aspect of terrorism that deals with the "telecommunications and computer systems of nations and private organizations". They can sabotage important systems of the target state like bank accounts, classified documents, air traffic controls and power plant control systems". They can also transmute the data on computer networks to spread their agenda and wreak havoc within the target state (Deutch 12).

Terrorism is a sociopolitical phenomenon that presently plagues the international community. The rise of religious extremism, consolidated religious political entities (such as the *Islamic State*), greatly interspersed networks, and technological innovations all contribute to the mobilization of terrorism. Terrorist groups often regard democratic states as weak targets, often having a tendency to easily submit to their whims (Savun and Philipps 881; Walter and Kydd 490). The spread of democracy also triggers terroristic sensibilities from people that counter the ideology.

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