

# Teaching Terrorism

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# Asking the right Questions

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- A course on terrorism inevitably leaves the student with more questions than answers.
- Teaching them to ask the right type of questions though is a skill that will help them in any course.

# What is terrorism?

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- The importance of a definition
- Primary elements
  - Use of violence
  - Use of fear, public act
  - Motivation for the attack
  - Identity of the target
  - Identity of the attacker
  - Planned and purposeful

# Who are terrorists?

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- What do terrorists look like?
  - They are men, women, and increasingly children
  - They are real people
    - Paradise Now
  - They come from all types of ethnic, religious, and social backgrounds
    - Eco-terrorists
    - KKK
    - IRA
    - Lord's Resistance Army
    - Japanese Red Army, etc.

# What are their methods?

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- Evolving Technologies
- The need for publicity
- The prominence of the suicide bomber
- Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Threats?
  - Apocalyptic ideologies up the ante
  - Difficult to obtain, even harder to use successfully
  - If it's not broke....
    - Conventional Weapons will remain the rule, but we still must prepare for the exceptions.

# Why terrorism?

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- Need for immediate action
- Violence begets violence
- Outnumbered and out-armed
- Family support and other benefits offered by leaders
- The power of fear and hope

# How do we counter terrorism?

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- Responding to terrorism is any action taken by a targeted interest in reply to a terrorist incident or terrorist environment.
- Counterterrorism refers to proactive policies that specifically seek to eliminate terrorist environments and groups
- Antiterrorism refers to target hardening, enhanced security, and other defensive measure seeking to deter or prevent terrorist attacks.

# How do we counter terrorism?

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- Use of Force
- Operations other than War
  - Repressive Options
  - Conciliatory Options
- Legalistic Options

# What are the costs of counterterrorism?

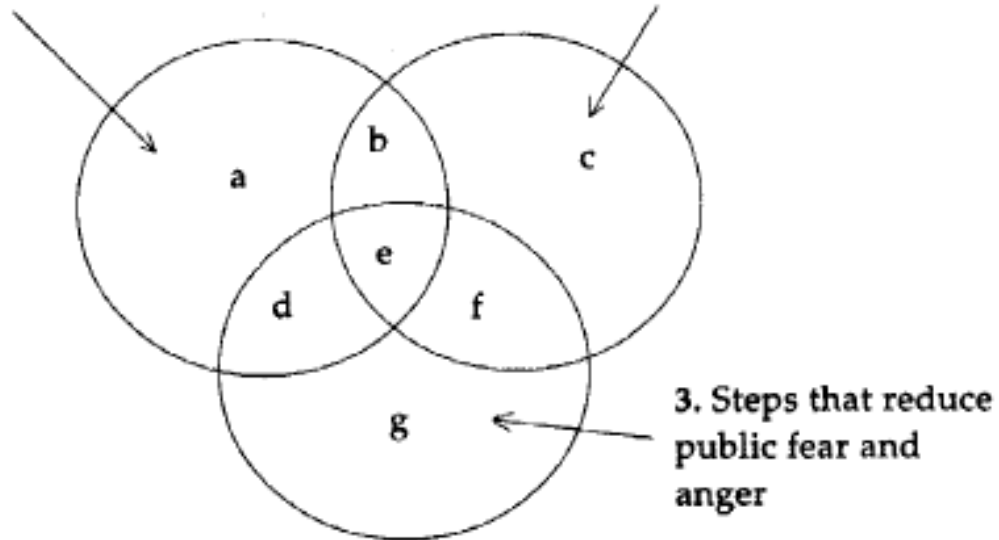
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- Financial
- Political
- Ethical
- Personal

# How do we balance security and liberty?

1. Steps useful to reduce the chance and harms of terrorism

2. Steps dangerous to democratic liberties or national unity



**Figure 5.1** Choice of Actions Incorporating Democratic Freedoms and Political Demands as well as Efficacy

\*Diagram taken from

Heymann, Phillip. (2003). *Terrorism, Freedom, and Security. Winning Without War.* Cambridge: MIT Press.

# Beyond Terrorism

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- Navigating the politics
- Drawing the line in the sand
- Weighing difficult choices
- Looking beneath the surface
- Seeing through another's eyes

# Useful References

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