

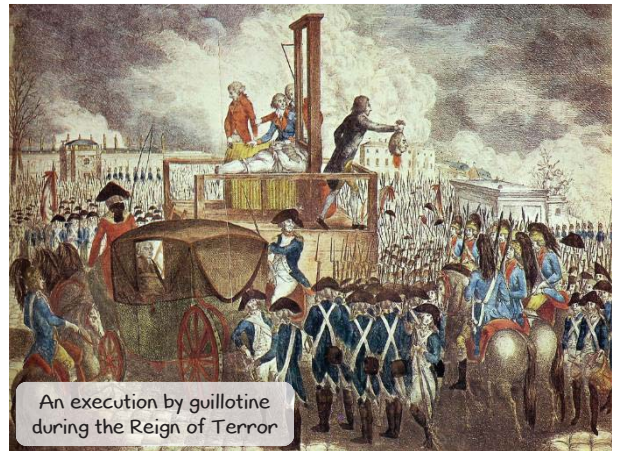
Terrorism

INTRODUCTION

The history of terrorism is as old as mankind. The oldest records about the history of terrorism date back to the first century AD. A Jewish group, called the Sicarii, killed people who worked together with the Ancient Romans in an attempt to drive out the Romans from Judea (the land of the Jews).

The English term of 'terrorism' was first used during the French Revolution in the 19th century. The Jacobins, who ruled France during its revolution, used violence and intimidation to make ordinary people obey their regime. This event is known as 'The Reign of Terror'.

Terrorism is defined as the use (or threat) of violence for a religious or political goal. Terrorists use fear and violence to intimidate societies or governments. Many different kinds of organizations have used terrorism to achieve their goals. It has been practiced by nationalist groups, religious groups and even ruling governments. These organizations have different aims. Some left-winged organizations have tried to overthrow capitalist governments, separatists want to break away from countries where they are a minority and religious groups want to establish governments that are based on their religious law. Terrorist groups and its members don't see themselves as terrorists. They see themselves as freedom fighters and patriots.



Their acts are organized in a way to attract maximum attention and to pressure governments to do or not do something. Most of the time, terrorist organizations are small groups who fight against governments that are more established and better-armed. However, it is very difficult for countries to defend themselves against terrorism. These organizations are usually very secretive and don't have any clear target that governments can fight against.

In recent times, terrorism has had a massive impact on society. It is considered to be one of the greatest threats to world peace and security. In order to respond to terrorist attacks, governments may reduce civil liberties to catch terrorists. This also happened after the 9/11 attacks in 2001. The American government allowed security agencies to monitor phone calls, emails and other kinds of communication.

Terrorism

DIFFERENT TYPES

When you hear the word terrorism, most people immediately think of ISIS or other Islamic extremists. In fact, there are many other kinds of terrorism. Different types of terrorism require different measures to deal with them.

State Terrorism

State Terrorism is the use of terror by a government to keep its population under control. This kind of terrorism is the original form. It already happened during the French Revolution in the early 19th century. The government executed people in order to intimidate its people. Nonetheless, rulers have possibly used this kind of terrorism for centuries to control their people.

Religious Terrorism

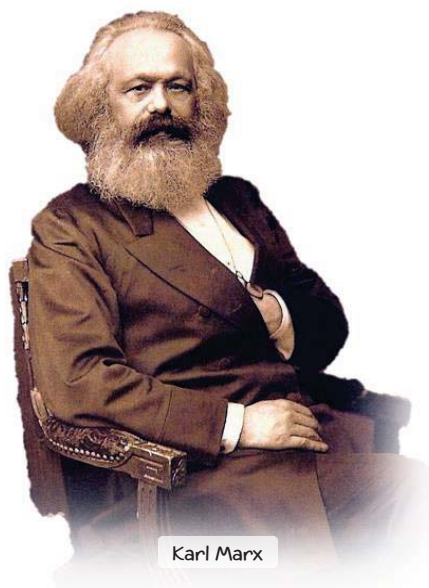
Terrorist acts that are motivated by religious beliefs is called religious terrorism. It is a very dangerous kind of terrorism because of the extreme fanaticism of these terrorists. Many of these kind of terrorists are willing to sacrifice their own lives for their cause. ISIS, Al Qaeda and Hezbollah are some examples of religious terrorist groups.

Right Wing Terrorism

Right Wing terrorist groups aim to fight liberal government and restore traditional social orders. This kind of terrorism is often characterized by militias and gangs. In many cases, this type of terrorism is motivated by their hate for ethnic minorities. Some examples of this kind of right wing terrorist organizations include Neo-Fascists and the Ku Klux Klan.



Al Qaeda Terrorist



Karl Marx

Left Wing Terrorism

Left Wing Terrorism aims to overthrow capitalist governments and replace them with socialist or communist societies. These kind of groups are often influenced by Marxist and other communist thoughts (Karl Marx is the founder of communism). Left wing extremists want to attack the established system and get rid of class distinction. The FARC from Colombia is a famous left wing terrorist group.

Separatist Terrorism

Separatist Terrorism is a form of terrorism that is motivated by nationalism. Their goals is to separate from a nation and form an independent country. These kind of groups are often minorities with different ethnic or religious backgrounds. They feel that their rights as a group are oppressed. ETA, PKK and the Tamil Tigers are examples of separatist organizations.

Al Qaeda

RELIGIOUS TERRORISM

Al Qaeda is a terrorist network of radical Muslims that has declared the Jihad, or holy war, on the West. The organization is responsible for many terrorist attacks all over the world, including the September 11 attacks in the United States. Until 2011, the group was led by Osama bin Laden. Al Qaeda is believed to be a network of several terrorist groups, which are mainly located in the Middle East.

Al Qaeda wants to punish Jews and Christians for all their 'wrongdoings' against Muslims. They want to create a Muslim world with Islamic political leadership, which is also referred to as Sharia.

The organization was founded in Afghanistan in the 1980s when the country was fighting against the Soviet Union. Their aim was to expel the occupying Russian forces and they were backed by the United States. After the Russian Army left Afghanistan, Al Qaeda continued their Jihad against enemies of the Islam. Currently, Al Qaeda operates in around 50 countries around the world.

After the death of Osama Bin Laden in 2011, it is believed that Ayman al-Zawahiri is the leader of Al Qaeda. The United States has killed many top members of the Al Qaeda group through drone strikes or by use of Special Forces. Despite this, the terrorist group still has major operations in Somalia, Syria, Libya and Yemen.



Osama bin Laden

Exercise 7: Choose the best answers for the questions below.

1) Al Qaeda is ..

- a. led by Osama bin Laden.
- b. responsible for the September 11 attacks.
- c. fighting against the Soviet Union.
- d. B and C are correct.

2) Who are enemies of Al Qaeda?

- a. the United States
- b. Israel
- c. Christians
- d. All of above

3) Al Qaeda was..

- a. formed during the Soviet Afghan War.
- b. once backed by the United States.
- c. founded by Muslims.
- d. All of the above

4) Sharia is ..

- a. the wrongdoings of Christians.
- b. the holy war of Muslim radicals.
- c. the army of the Soviet Union.
- d. a political system based on the Qur'an.

5) The United States ..

- a. has eliminated Al Qaeda.
- b. killed several leaders of Al Qaeda.
- c. use drones to fight terrorism.
- d. B and C are correct.

6) Which statement(s) below are true?

- a. The word 'Al Qaeda' means holy war.
- b. Al Qaeda was defeated in 2011 when Osama bin Laden was killed.
- c. Al Qaeda wants to create a Muslim world.
- d. Al Qaeda was formed in the Soviet Union in the 1980s.

Exercise 8: Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

Afghanistan

Sharia

Al-Zawahiri

Soviet Union

Jihad

Al Qaeda

Drone

Bin Laden

A war against unbelievers

The founder of Al Qaeda

A network of Muslim militants

Islamic law based on the Qur'an

A former communist country

The country where Al Qaeda was founded

The current leader of Al Qaeda

A remote-controlled aircraft



Irish Republican Army

IRA

The Provisional Irish Republican Army was an organization that wanted to unite Ireland and Northern Ireland and make it a socialist country. The group split from the Irish Republican Army in 1969. They used violence to remove Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom. The organization officially came to an end in 1997 and over that time, they had 10,000 members.



In order to create a united Ireland, they used political persuasion, but also armed attacks and bombings. Its main opponents were the British Army and Protestant paramilitary groups. At first, the IRA wanted to remove the government of Northern Ireland and use violence against the British Army. After the Bloody Sunday attack in 1972, the IRA recruited many more members. Bloody Sunday was an incident that occurred in Northern Ireland when British soldiers killed 13 civilians who protested against the British policy of locking up suspected Irish Nationalists.

Sinn Fein was the political side of the IRA. It was a Republican (Catholic) party that had the same interests as the IRA, but did not carry out any attacks.

Nearly 1,800 people died in the IRA's armed campaign. The victims of the attacks primarily included British security forces, but also 640 civilians. The IRA itself lost approximately 300 members during its 20-year existence. In 1997, the IRA agreed to stop its attacks and would only use political and democratic ways of achieving their goals.



Exercise 9: Answer the questions below.

1) When was the IRA established and when did they stop their operations?

2) What did the IRA want?

3) What were the main targets of the IRA?

4) What kind of terrorist organization was the IRA?

- a. state terrorism
- b. religious terrorism
- c. right wing terrorism
- d. separatist terrorism

5) What is Bloody Sunday?

6) What is Sinn Fein?

7) How many people did the IRA kill?

Hezbollah

MUSLIM RADICALS

Hezbollah is an Islamic political party and a military organization which fights against Israel and “western imperialism” in Lebanon. The United States and the European Union considers Hezbollah to be a terrorist organization. The organization was established in 1982, during the Lebanese Civil War. Their main goals are to establish an Islamic government across the Arab world and to destroy the state of Israel. They believe that Israel is occupying Muslim land and therefore has no right to exist. It blames the United States and Israel for many problems in the Middle East. Hezbollah was long supported by Iran who provided the group with arms and money.



Hezbollah soldiers

The group is responsible for numerous attacks against Israel. Hezbollah has launched thousands of rockets into Israeli territory. It was also responsible for the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut. The bombing resulted in the deaths of 241 Americans. The paramilitary wing of Hezbollah is believed to be more powerful than the Lebanese Army. For that reason, it is often described as a “state within a state”. Hezbollah has increasingly become involved in the Syrian civil war, where its fighters have supported the regime of Assad. It is believed that Hezbollah has 1,000 active guerrillas and another 8,000 volunteers. The main tactic of Hezbollah is the use of suicide bombers, shoot-outs and firing rockets and missiles.

Exercise 13: Answer the questions below.

1) What is Hezbollah?

2) What does Hezbollah want to achieve?

3) From which country does Hezbollah operate?

4) Why does Hezbollah want to destroy Israel?

5) Why is Hezbollah described as “a state within a state”?

6) What kinds of violence does Hezbollah use?



Taliban

MUSLIM RADICALS

The Taliban is a radical Islamic movement in Afghanistan and some parts of Pakistan. Mohammed Omar was the commander and spiritual leader of the group until his death in 2013. The Taliban was formed in the early 1990s. In 1996 (during Afghanistan's civil war), they seized power in Afghanistan and declared the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. They controlled approximately 90% of the country and ruled until 2001.



Taliban logo



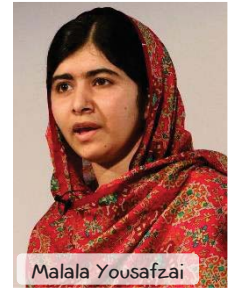
Taliban religious police beating woman in public

The Taliban enforced the most extreme type of sharia (Islamic law). They brutally treated women and killed numerous Afghan civilians. One of their most cruel acts was the killing of 130 students and teachers in a high school in Northern Pakistan. The Taliban organized public executions for murderers and adulterers. They would cut off people's hands if they were found guilty of theft. All men were required to grow beards and all women had to wear a burqa. A burqa is a piece of clothing that covers a woman from head to foot, including the face. According to the United Nations, the Taliban is responsible for 75% of all Afghan civilian casualties in 2010, and 80% in 2012.



Taliban militant

One of the most controversial terrorist acts of the Taliban was the attack on schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai. She was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman because she went to school. Luckily, she survived the attack.



Malala Yousafzai

In 2001, the United States Army invaded Afghanistan and overthrew the Taliban regime soon after. Nonetheless, the organization is still fighting against the Afghan and Pakistani governments and it remains one of the most deadly terrorist groups in the world.

Exercise 14: Are the following statements true or false?

- 1) Osama bin Laden was the founder and leader of the Taliban. ()
- 2) The Taliban ruled Afghanistan until they were defeated by the United States. ()
- 3) Sharia is a legal system that is based on Islam. ()
- 4) Malala Yousafzai was a member of the Taliban. ()
- 5) The Taliban does not carry out violent attacks anymore. ()
- 6) The cruel acts of the Taliban between 1996 and 2001 is an example of state terrorism. ()
- 7) Mohammed Omar is the current leader of the Taliban. ()

Exercise 15: Write down the definitions of the words below.

1) Mohammed Omar

2) Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

3) Malala Yousafzai

4) Burqa

Islamic State of Iraq & Syria

ISIS

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is a group of Sunni militants. The organization self-proclaimed a state in Iraq and Syria in the Middle East. This state is also called the caliphate, which is an Islamic state that is led by a supreme religious and political leader (a caliph). The group has attacked numerous military and government targets in Iraq and Syria and claims to have killed thousands of Iraqi civilians. Apart from that, ISIS is also known for carrying out mass killings by killing dozens of people at a time and having public executions.

The group was founded in 1999 and was a branch of Al Qaeda in Iraq. In 2013, ISIS gained a lot of support in Iraq as a result of discrimination against Sunni Muslims in Iraq. After ISIS entered the Syrian Civil War, it established a large presence in several Syrian regions. According to estimates, ISIS had over 30,000 fighters in Syria and Iraq in late 2014. Al Qaeda cut all ties with ISIS in 2014 because of the group's brutality.



Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

ISIS wants to establish an Islamic State in the Sunni regions of Iraq. However, since the group got involved in the Syrian Civil War, they got control over the Sunni-majority areas in Syria. In June, 2014, ISIS proclaimed a worldwide caliphate with Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as the supreme leader (caliph). ISIS claims to have religious authority over all Muslims in the world and wants to control all Muslim inhabited regions all around the world.

ISIS is extremely ruthless against minorities who live in ISIS controlled areas. Many people have been brutally murdered. Christians, Yazidis and other minorities have fled to other areas. Even Muslims who do not follow ISIS' interpretation of Islam are murdered by the militants.

Many Muslims from all across the globe have criticized the actions and the activities of this extremist group. The United Nations and many other countries designated ISIS as a terrorist organization. Moreover, despite all such stringent measures against the group, ISIS has recruited many foreign fighters. It is estimated that more than 10,000 foreign fighters have joined the Jihad (Holy War) in Iraq and Syria. In September 2014, there were more than 100 Americans and over 2,000 European fighters who joined ISIS. The foreign fighters are often treated with less respect than the Arabic fighters. Most foreign fighters lack combat skills and are often placed in suicide units.



Flag of ISIS

Ku Klux Klan

KKK

The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) is a right wing movement in the United States. The group was founded in 1866 and soon after extended to most southern states in the U.S. The Ku Klux Klan have immense hatred towards the African-Americans, Catholics, Jews, immigrants and gays. They want a society with "white supremacy". White supremacy means that people who are white (European origins) are better than other racial groups and therefore must rule the other groups. Historically, the group has conducted violent acts such as bombings, torture and murder against mainly the African-Americans. It is believed that the KKK has killed more than 3,500 people. Most violence occurred during the early stage of the organization.



Emblem of the Ku Klux Klan



KKK night rally in Chicago, 1920

The history of the KKK can be divided into three parts. The first part flourished between 1866 and the early 1870s. During this time, the Ku Klux Klan wanted to overthrow Republican governments in the southern states during the Reconstruction Era. The Reconstruction Era took place after the Civil War when the government, society, infrastructure and economy of the southern states had to be rebuilt. During that time, the organization had members throughout the South. Around 1871, the federal government started to suppress the group. KKK members began making their own robes and hats with the sole purpose of hiding their identities and terrifying their opponents.

The second era of the Ku Klux Klan emerged in 1915. By the mid-1920s, the organization flourished nationwide. At its peak, the Ku Klux Klan had approximately six million members. Their main focus was on Catholics, Jews and African-Americans. They adopted a standard white costume and added cross burnings and mass parades.

The third and current part of the KKK was formed after 1950. They formed small, local and unconnected groups that used the name of the Ku Klux Klan. They mainly opposed to the Civil Right Movement. The Civil Rights Movement was a popular movement for equal rights for African-Americans and opportunities for U.S. citizenship. The KKK often used violence and even murder to oppress the civil right activists.

It is believed that the current Ku Klux Klan has 150 Klan chapters with between 5,000 and 8,000 members.



Members of the Ku Klux Klan

Boko Haram

MUSLIM RADICALS

Boko Haram is a group of Islamic extremists based in northeastern Nigeria. They ruled parts of Nigeria, Chad, Niger and Cameroon. The group was founded in 2002. Previously, Boko Haram was linked to Al Qaeda, but in March 2015 it declared its allegiance to ISIS. Boko Haram wants to turn Nigeria into an Islamic state. They forbid the people to wear shirts and pants, voting and receiving normal education. The group is also opposed to the 'westernization' of the Nigerian society and the distribution of wealth among the elite of the country.



Logo of Boko Haram

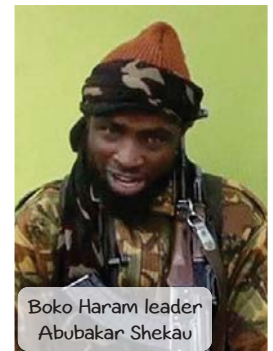


Boko Haram militants

The Nigerian branch of ISIS is conducting bombings, assassinations and abductions in order to get what they want. In April 2014, Boko Haram kidnapped 276 schoolgirls. They said they would treat the girls as slaves and force them to have arranged marriages. The group is responsible for more than 20,000 deaths and has displaced around 2.3 million people from their homes.

By March 2015, Boko Haram had lost most of its territory. They were defeated by troops from Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

Many Boko Haram fighters have been killed and their weapons have been seized by government forces. Nonetheless, experts believe it is too early to write off the Islamic group, since the region has a history of militant Islamic groups. It is estimated that Boko Haram currently has 9,000 members.



Boko Haram leader
Abubakar Shekau

Exercise 22: Are the following statements true or false?

- 1) Boko Haram is a terrorist group from Africa. ()
- 2) Boko Haram is the group who is responsible for the abduction of 276 schoolgirls in 2014. ()
- 3) Abubakar Shekau is the leader of Boko Haram. ()
- 4) Boko Haram is a branch of Al Qaeda. ()
- 5) Boko Haram is a separatist organization who wants to form their own state within Nigeria. ()
- 6) Boko Haram is a religious terrorist organization. ()
- 7) In the last few years, Boko Haram has lost much of its territory. ()

Exercise 23: The table below contains words that have been chopped in pieces. Find the pieces that fit together and write them in the answer area.

NICE	QAEDA	LAM	KID
BOM	TANT	IS	NAP
AL	RIA	BING	MILI

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____