

# Political Science 12: IR -- Fifth Lecture, Part 2

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# 6

## **Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism**

# Civil War and Terrorism

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1. Civil War
2. Why War?
3. Strategies and Resolving Civil Wars
4. Terrorism
5. Why Terrorism?
6. Strategies and Preventing Terrorism

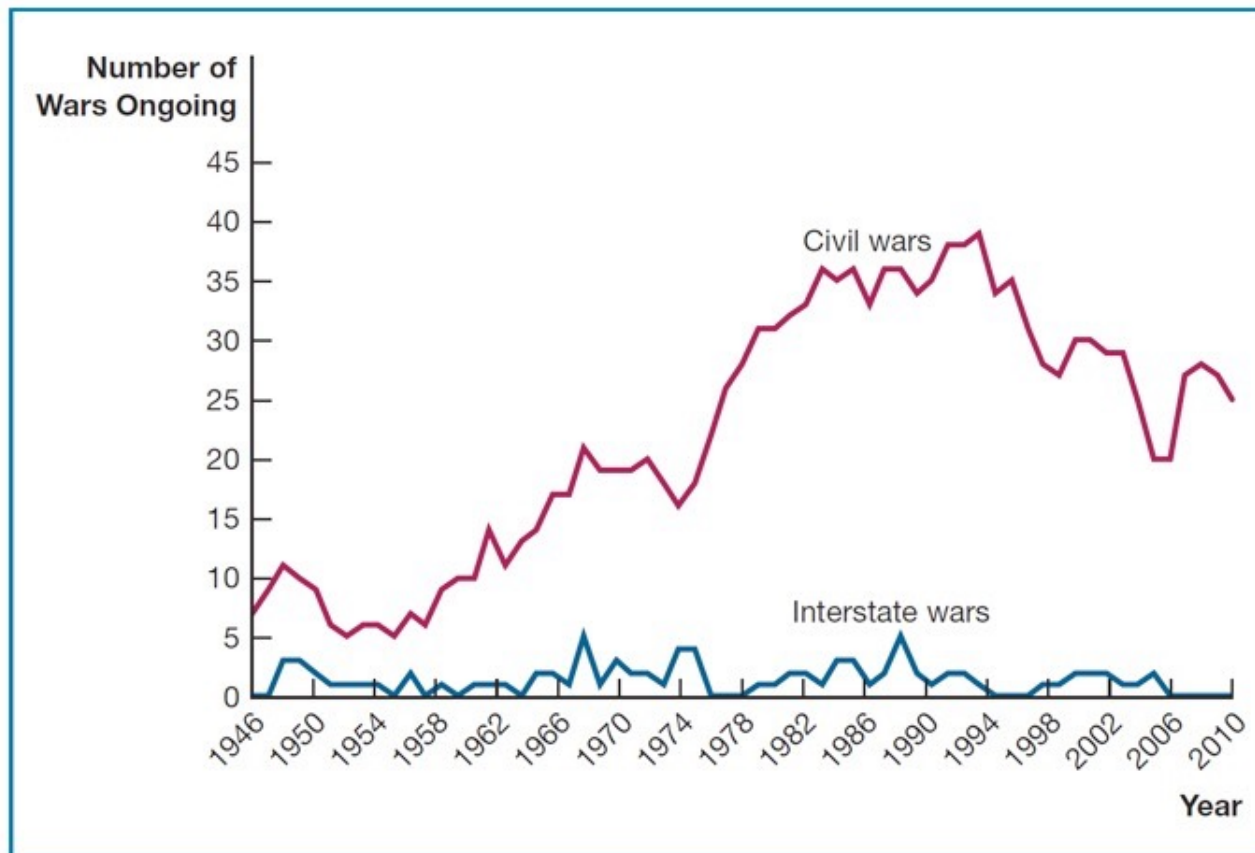
# Civil War and Terrorism

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# Civil War

Figure 6.1: Interstate and Civil Wars, 1946–2010



# Civil War

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- Origins of Intrastate war
- Conflicts of interests

# Civil War and Terrorism

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1. Civil War
2. Why War?
  - Strategies and Resolving Civil Wars
  - Terrorism
  - Why Terrorism?
  - Strategies and Preventing Terrorism

# Why War?

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- Collective action problem
- Group level explanation
- Country level explanation
- International factors



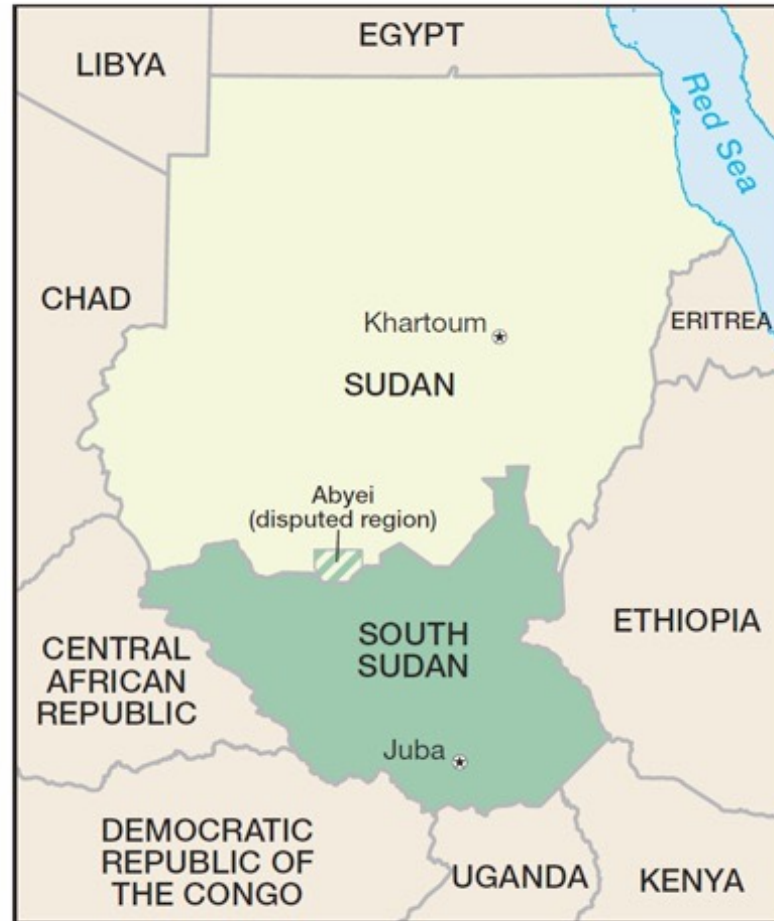
# Why War?



# Why War?

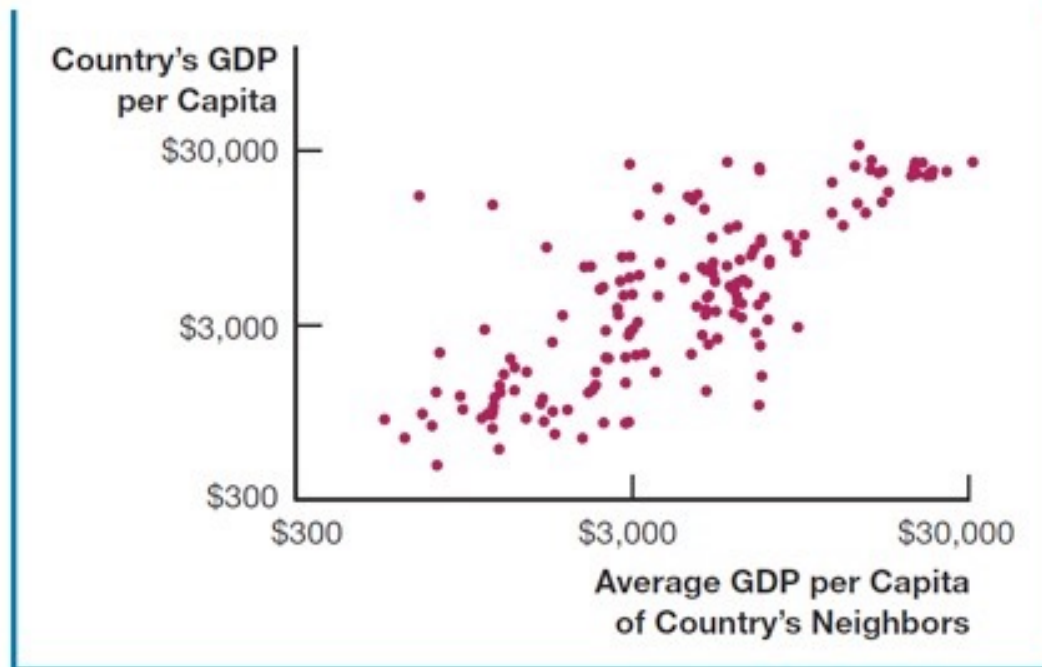


# Why War?



# Why War?

Figure A: Country Wealth and Neighborhood Wealth



# Why War?

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# Why War?



# Why War?



Map 6.1: Civil Wars, 1990–2010

# Why War?

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- Civil war as a bargaining failure
- Information asymmetries
- Commitment problems
- Indivisible goods



# Civil War and Terrorism

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3. **Strategies and Resolving Civil Wars**
  - Terrorism
  - Why Terrorism?
  - Strategies and Preventing Terrorism

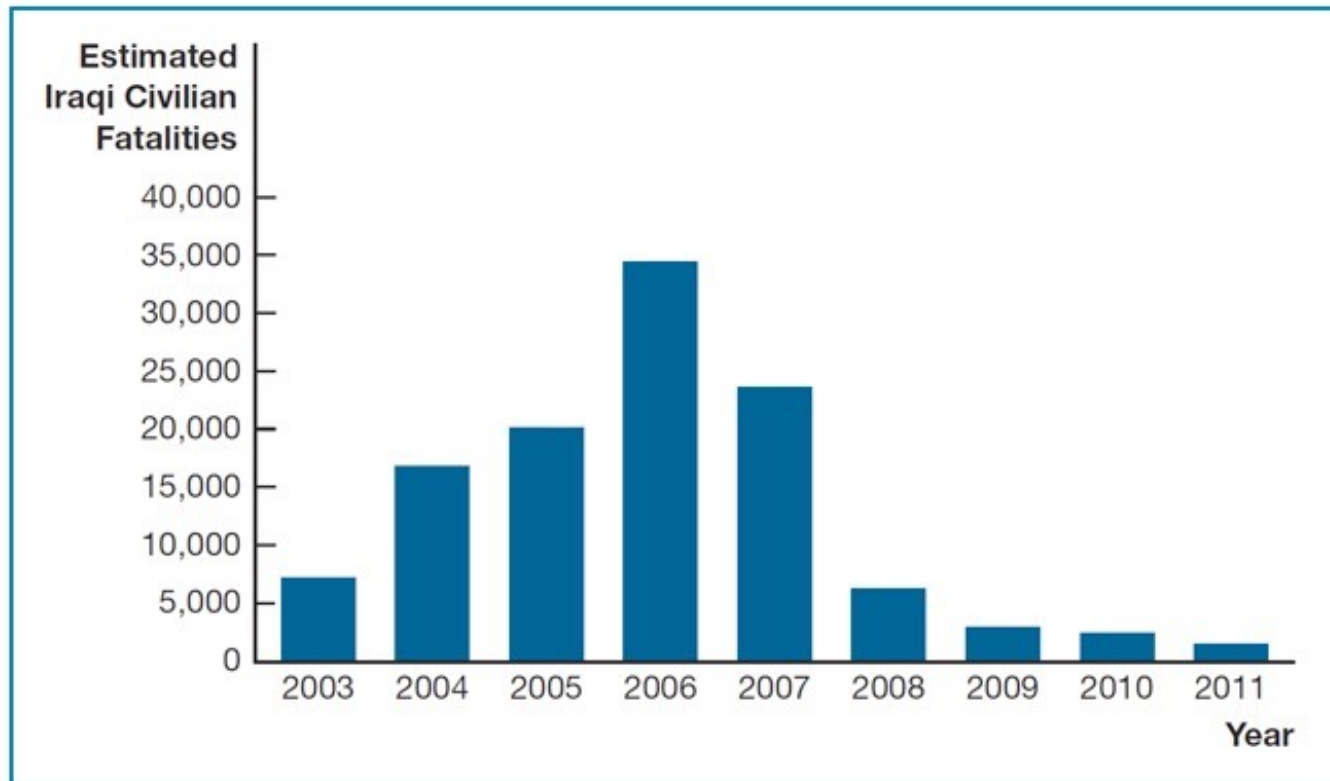
# Strategies and Resolving Civil Wars

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- Insurgency
- Counterinsurgency
  - Conventional military forces
  - “Hearts and minds”

# Strategies and Resolving Civil Wars

Figure 6.3: Estimated Civilian Fatalities Due to the War in Iraq, 2003–2011



# Strategies and Resolving Civil Wars

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- International efforts to end civil wars
- Reducing the likelihood of civil wars

# Civil War and Terrorism

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  - Why Terrorism?
  - Strategies and Preventing Terrorism

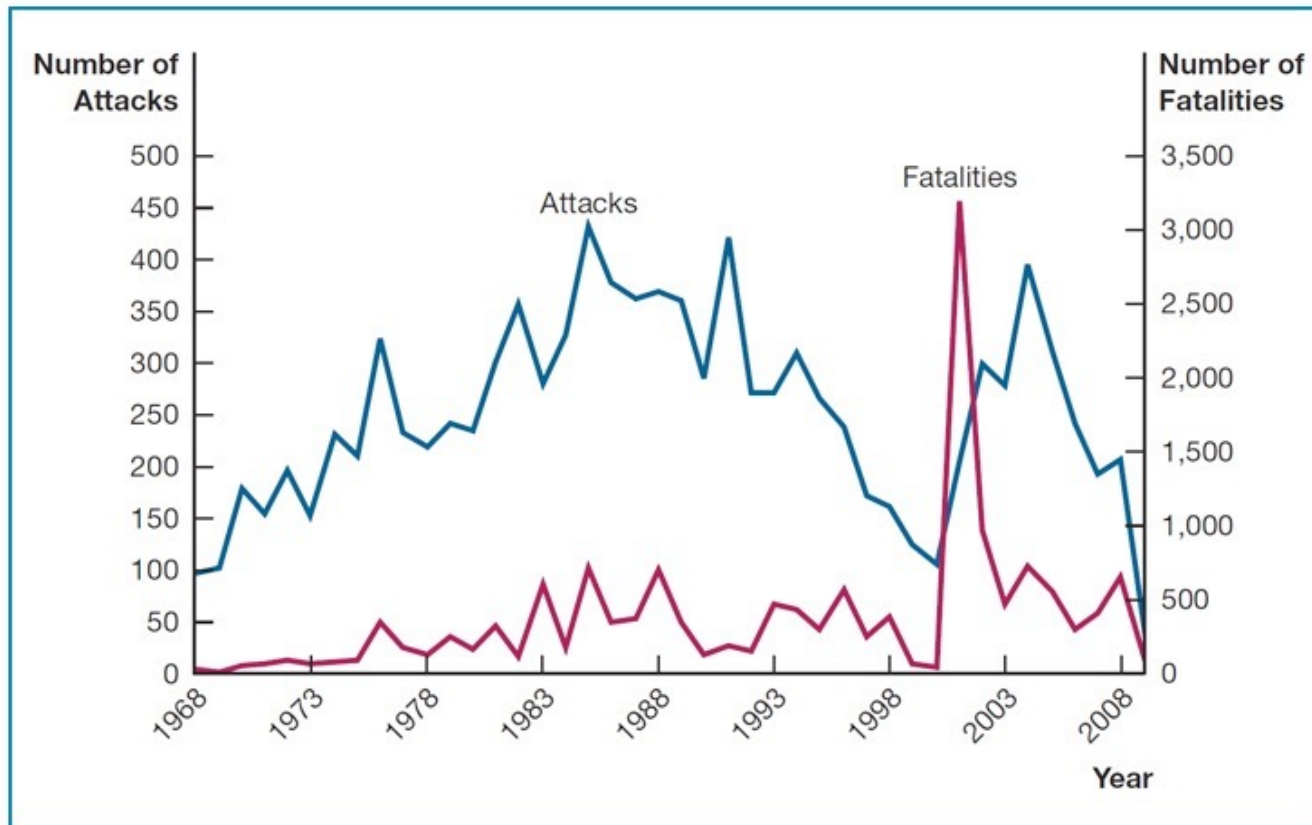
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- Use of violence against civilians
  - Action taken by a group that is not a state







Figure 6.2: International Terrorist Attacks and Fatalities, 1968–2009



# Civil War and Terrorism

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1. Civil War
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4. Terrorism
5. **Why Terrorism?**
  - Strategies and Preventing Terrorism

# Why Terrorism?

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Are terrorists *rational*?

- Terrorists are strategic
- Terrorists have goals

# Why Terrorism?

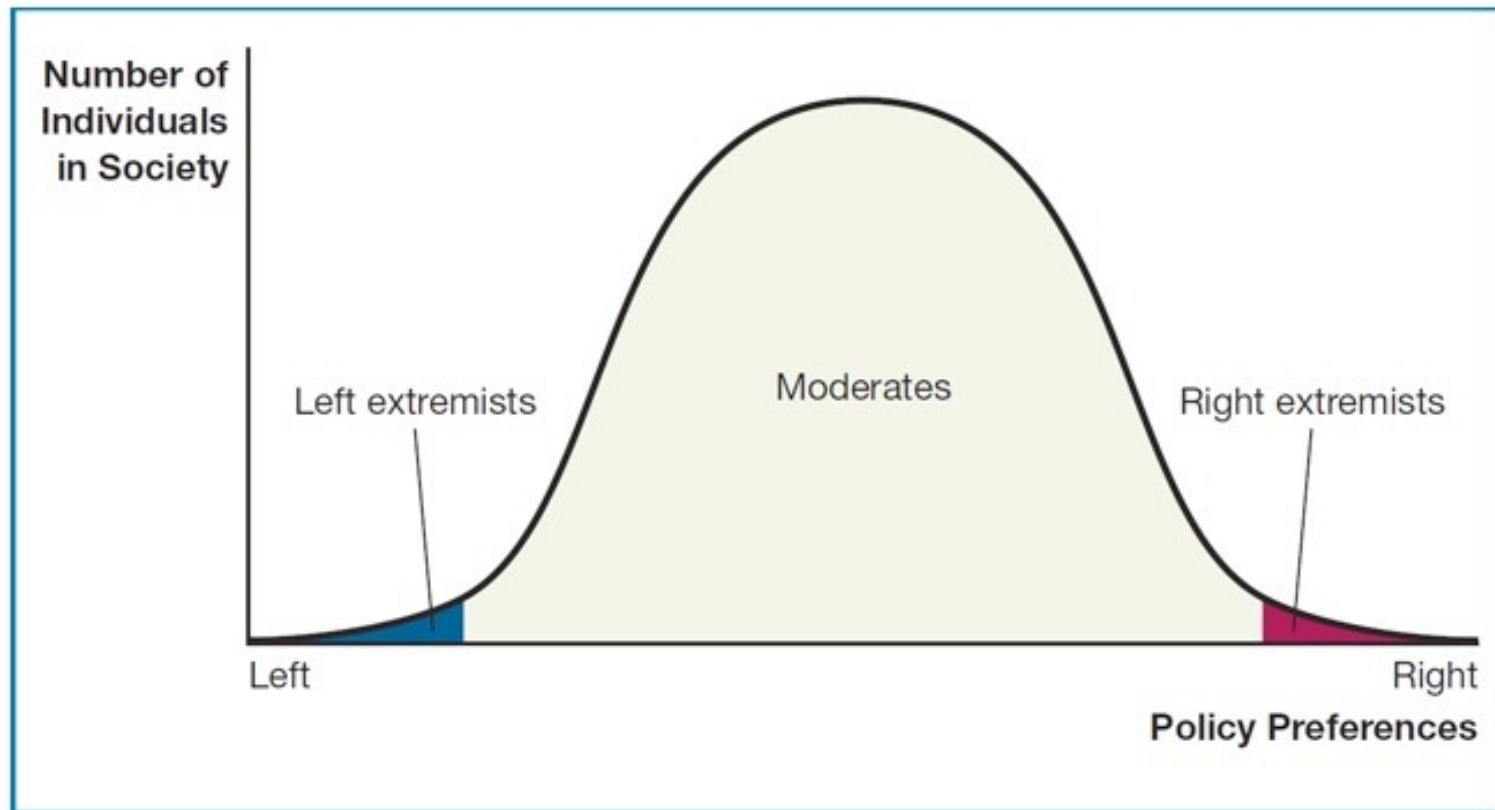
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Terrorists are **extremists**:

They are politically weak relative to the demands they make.

# Why Terrorism?

Figure 6.4: Extremist Interests



# Why Terrorism?

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## **Terrorists are not thugs**

- Places where law enforcement has broken down—for example, Somalia and Bosnia
- Not as threatening against modern democracies

# Puzzles about Terrorism

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- Are “ancient hatreds” to blame?
- If people want peace, why not just make a deal?
- Why does mistrust prevent a deal in some situations, but not others?

# Terrorism as a Bargaining Problem

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Bargaining failures that can lead to terrorism:

- Incomplete information
- Commitment problems
- Indivisibilities



# Terrorism and Incomplete Information

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- Target states lack information
- Limits to information states and terrorists willing to share
- Difficult for terrorists to make their threats credible

# Terrorism and Commitment Problems

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- Must demonstrate credibility
- States make concessions
- Targets must be able to judge

# Terrorism and Indivisibilities

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- Terrorism as a result of indivisibilities
- Religion and terrorism
- Incentives to exaggerate indivisibilities

# Civil War and Terrorism

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# Terrorist Strategies

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- Coercion
- Provocation
- Spoiling
- Outbidding

# Terrorist Strategies

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Who are the actors?

- A target state or population
- A terrorist organization
- The terrorists' "home" state or population

# Coercion

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- Induces policy change by imposing costs on the target
- Uses fear to get people to pressure target government for change

# Coercion





# Provocation

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Attacking to provoke a response from government

# Spoiling

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- Terrorists may try to “spoil” a potential peace deal
- Violence creates a credibility problem

# Outbidding

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A competitive dynamic

# Suicide Bombers

Table 6.1: Deadliest Suicide Terrorists  
1970-2010

| Terrorist Group                     | Total Killed in Suicide Attacks | Total Number of Suicide Attacks | Target(s)  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Al Qaeda                            | 3792                            | 44                              | United States, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, others           |
| Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealem    | 1502                            | 105                             | Sri Lanka  |
| Taliban                             | 1332                            | 165                             | Afghanistan, Pakistan                                      |
| Islamic State of Iraq               | 1152                            | 30                              | Iraq   |
| Al Qaeda in Iraq                    | 1082                            | 68                              | Iraq   |
| Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan           | 902                             | 30                              | Pakistan   |
| Hezbollah                           | 502                             | 14                              | Israel, Lebanon  |
| Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) | 424                             | 56                              | Israel, Palestinian territories (West Bank and Gaza Strip) |
| Chechen Rebels                      | 419                             | 31                              | Chechnya, Russia   |
| Jemaah Islamiya                     | 261                             | 8                               | Indonesia  |

# Counterterrorism Strategies

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- Deterrence is difficult
- Preemption
- Defensive measures
- Criminalization
- Negotiation and compromise

# Counterterrorism Strategies



# Political Science 12: International Relations

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