Political Science 12: IR -- Fifth Lecture, Part 2
6 Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism
Civil War and Terrorism

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

[Graph showing the number of wars ongoing, with separate lines for Civil wars and Interstate wars.]
Civil War

- Origins of Intrastate war
- Conflicts of interests
Civil War and Terrorism

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

• 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?
Why War?
Why War?

Map 6.1: Civil Wars, 1990–2010

[Map showing civil wars from 1990 to 2010]
Why War?

- Civil war as a bargaining failure
- Information asymmetries
- Commitment problems
- Indivisibile goods
Civil War and Terrorism

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Strategies and Resolving Civil Wars

- 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

• International efforts to end civil wars
• Reducing the likelihood of civil wars
Civil War and 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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Why Terrorism?

Are terrorists *rational*?

- Terrorists are strategic
- Terrorists have goals
Why Terrorism?

Terrorists are **extremists**: They are politically weak relative to the demands they make.
Why Terrorism?

Figure 6.4: Extremist Interests
Why Terrorism?

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

• 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

Bargaining failures that can lead to terrorism:

- Incomplete information
- Commitment problems
- Indivisibilities
Terrorism and Incomplete Information

- 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

• Must demonstrate credibility
• States make concessions
• Targets must be able to judge
Terrorism and Indivisibilities

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

• Coercion
• Provocation
• Spoiling
• Outbidding
Terrorist Strategies

Who are the actors?
• A target state or population
• A terrorist organization
• The terrorists’ “home” state or population
Coercion

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

Attacking to provoke a response from government
Spoiling

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

A competitive dynamic
Table 6.1: Deadliest Suicide Terrorists 1970-2010

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

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