

## Terrorism and its centuries challenges

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### Abstract

The goal of this article is to portray how to better understand the epistemic differences of terminology used for terrorism and how people's lives have been and are still affected by this undefined violence. By collecting some diary information from 20 people about their perception about terrorism attacks we will analyze some of overall countries and Saudi Arabia's commitment in fighting this century's challenge. Fighting radical religious beliefs in the Kingdom is an immense challenge. The true Islamic faith is in large contrast to those individuals and entities whose actions are centered on the intentional misrepresentation or the degradation of the teachings of Islam.

The base of this data will indicate the progress within Saudi Arabia, its position in the world prospect and its impact in society since it remains a robust construction even now days, even though, a lot has been done.

The first signs provided in this analysis start with the beginning of the new century, when a strong attack happened just days before it began. Some important indicators such as terrorism founding, or money charities caused many changes in Saudi Arabia as a leading power, in the war against terrorism in Middle East.

**Keywords:** terrorism, violence, extremists, civilians, transnational terrorism.

### Introduction

Saudi Arabia, the country that encompasses most of the Arabian Peninsula, with Red Sea and Persian (Arabian) Gulf coastlines is known as the birthplace of Islam and home to the Two Holy Mosques, is lately an attractive strategic target of extremists who seek to redefine Islam for their own nihilistic purposes. The golf country as one of the leading nations in combating terrorism and terror financing, has been working closely with its allies to change the mindset that terror organizations rely on.

By defining the frequent use of the term terrorism, during this paper, we would firstly like to understand in a correct way the frequent used meaning of it, based on several resources. "Terrorism is the use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, often in the pursuit of political aims" (Eubank and Weinberg, 1994). But there is no universal agreement on the definition of terrorism. It's not a surprise that various legal systems and governmental institutions use different definitions of this term. In many countries, the definition of the term changes its accepted comprehensive definition, due to this, it is difficult to get a correct middle ground of all the formulations.

The Global Terrorism Index calculates that around 64,000 people were killed by acts of terrorism between the years 2002-2011. This is a startling illustration of how "terrorism has become one of the most pressing political problems during the last half-century" (Whittaker, 2007). Yet academics, policy makers, and law enforcement

officials alike have so far failed to establish a cohesive and unanimous definition of terrorism.

Relying to the United States Terrorism example on defining terrorism,<sup>1</sup> it is a “premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets, by subnational groups or clandestine agents.” Well, if we keep the definition in this prospect, we can agree that all what is included here it is part of our mission in undertaking the more comprehensive formulation of the notion, but then, can it only be a “politically motivated violence” (Enders and Sandler, 2012, p.4)?

Based on criminal law encyclopedia it is a crime that is made illegal by legislation and “*mala in se*” a crime that is inherently immoral or wrong where it reached the immediate target victims or directed targets can consist in a larger spectrum of society (Cassese, 2002).

Looking at some classified books for the notion, it is the generally characterized by extreme aggression, suffering, destruction, or mortality of people, using irregular (rarely, even regular) from of forces. To conclude with an epistemological understanding of the origin of the term “terrorism” we found out that it comes from the Latin word: ‘**terror**’, “great fear”, “dread”, related to the Latin verb *terrere*, “to frighten”.

French *terrorisme*, the “*terror cimbricus*” was a panic and state of emergency in Rome in response to the approach of warriors of the Cimbric tribe in 105 BCE. During 1793 in the French Convection, “*La Terreur*” in English – Terror, was declared as the order of the day. One of the most important leaders of the French Revolution, Maximilien Robespierre proclaimed that “Terror is nothing other than justice, prompt, severe, inflexible”.

Two years later in the international newspaper Times, the use of the word was the early appearance in English. “There exists more than one system to overthrow our liberty. Fanaticism has raised every passion; Royalism has not yet given up its hopes, and Terrorism feels bolder than ever in 1795.

### Sociologist view

Based on Durkheim (1897) “Society can survive only if there exist among its members a sufficient degree of homogeneity, education perpetuates and reinforces this homogeneity by fixing in the child from the beginning the essential similarities which collective life demands”.

Many states have in their constitution the anti-terrorism amendments in order to prevent these acts. The violence of this act is asymmetrical in a conflict that is designed to induce terror and psychic fear (sometimes indiscriminate) through the destruction of noncombatant targets (sometimes iconic symbols).

The global community is facing today an enormous challenge as a result of terrorist acts, and this multifaceted threats are directly– oriented from Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) on its southern border to the rise of Daesh (also known as ISIS or ISIL) to its north, in Iraq and Syria, to the clandestine activities of Al-Qaeda and Daesh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia itself.

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<sup>1</sup> Title 22 of the Chapter 38 U.S. Code.

Many states use all the tools at their disposal to prevent of combat terrorism, like: military action to roll back the territorial gains of terrorist organizations, aggressive action of terrorist financing, innovative efforts to challenge and eventually overcome the ideology, theology and messages that underlie terror organizations.

### **Two challenges for Saudi Arabia**

On one hand, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is keen to open, modernize and change the image of the closed and frame up traditional culture but on the other side the risk of opening the doors for new realities in helping the country to becoming closer to the other western states is and open risk for more flux of undefined people will enter in kingdom (and some of them may not have touristic goals)

*But how foreign intelligence services can work against these terrorist organizations?*

The international community is working very close to each other to create a strong cooperation between nations allied against terror. Saudi Arabia remains one the leader countries continues to build on its initiatives, and successful programs on counterterrorism because terrorism remains a threat of security and safety.

How serious are the threats that Saudi Arabia and other powerful states face nowadays?

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has faced more than 60 known attacks by Al-Qaeda and Daesh, some two dozen of them in the last two years. The self-proclaimed leader of Daesh called for the extermination of the Saudi royal family in three formal decrees, or "Fatwas," issued between 2014 and 2016. Confronted with such threats, Saudi security forces continue to bolster their resources and capabilities. Next, some essential strategic distinctions are drawn between defensive and proactive measures in the case of transnational terrorism when multiple countries are confronted by a common terrorist group.

The Global Terrorism Database has created maps of how many terrorism-related deaths occur annually worldwide.

### **The historical context**

Worldwide attacks from year 2000-2015.<sup>2</sup> The new millennium was considered first as a relatively peaceful year in 2000. The first bombings in the Philippines killed 22 and injured hundreds of others. It was followed by September 11, in New York 2001 that is marked in the US' history as one of the greatest loss of life from a foreign attack in the country. 2,700 people were killed in the attacks on city s Twin Towers.

During 2002 a consistent bundle of activity in South America, Israel mid-Atlantic region of the US turn on. As well as in 2003 spiked bombs took place in Israel, Morocco and Russia and the beginning of Iraq war. In 2004, train bombings happen in Madrid, which nearly injured 2000 and over killed 200 people. Iraq and Pakistan had some issues and the Taliban and Al-Qaeda were responsible for many of the attacks in Europe and the Middle East at that time.

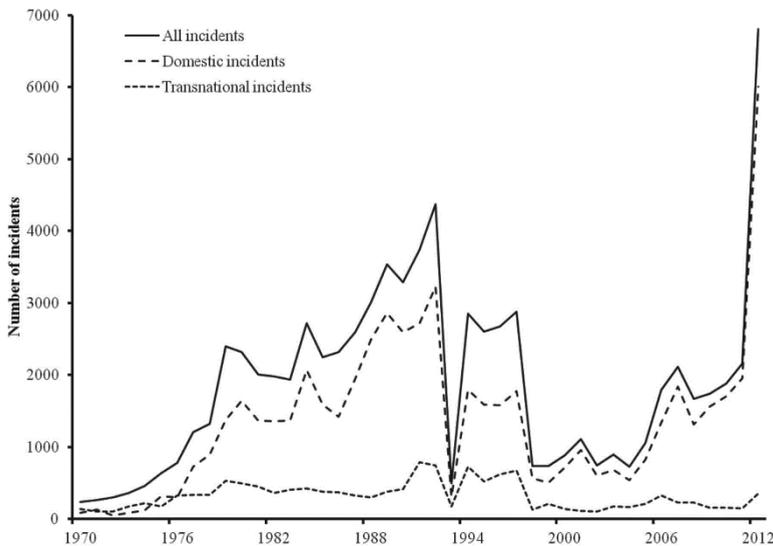
In 2005, Hillah, the Iraqi city experienced a car bombing that took 127 lives and

<sup>2</sup> GTD terrorist incidents per year, 1970–2012.

injured hundreds more. Later, four suicide bombers blew up a London bus. It injured 700 people and killed more than 50 others.

- Monthly terror attacks in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan continued to produce during 2006. It continued in 2007 with an outdoor bombing in Iraqi markets and later that year was the worst of it, when a series of car bomb attacks and injured 1,500 people and killed 800 of them. It is considering as the second-deadliest terror attack in history of terror after September 11. Car bombings attacks continued even during 2009 in Iraq and Pakistan. During 2010's in Pakistan's worst activity occurred due primarily to suicide bombings where many people were injured and year 2011 was a particularly bloody year as well for Pakistan and India. New sources of conflict crossed the western border into Syria in 2012, with the Iraq War in the past. Damascus and Aleppo became hotbeds for terrorist activity.

Fig. 1.



In the Middle Eastern countries in 2013, the conflict as car bombings in Damascus was intensified and it took approximately 80 lives and injured 250 people. The Boston Marathon bombings in April killed five and wounded more than 200. Attacks of Boko Haram in Nigeria led to the deaths of more than 200 people and unknown number of injuries. In 2014, ISIS continued to ravage both Syria and Iraq. Unrest in Nigeria and Cameroon led to thousands of deaths caused by Boko Haram forces opening fire on civilians. Bombings in Turkey and Yemen also produced hundreds of deaths. In December 2015, shooters claiming allegiance with the Islamic State killed one dozen and wounded two dozen in San Bernardino, California.

As Oxford data base fortunately show, these two periods roughly correspond to left-wing and religious fundamentalist terrorist dominance, so that the split is conceptually interesting, but the focus of this article is mostly after the year 2000.

### Middle East attacks during 2000-2015

- a) Attacks in Middle East during 2004
- b) Middle East 2006, monthly terror attacks
- c) 2012 Syria with Iraq war
- d) 2013 Middle east, car bombing, Damascus
- e) 2014 ISIS continued to ravage both Syria and Iraq
- f) 2015 Yemen bombing

To combat this threat, Saudi government officials and religious scholars have condemned terrorist acts and aggressively sought to combat deviant ideologies.

“Combating terrorism is an international obligation that requires global cooperation in efforts, at all levels, to confront it—in security, intellectually, in the media and militarily—remembering that such cooperation shall be in accordance with the rules of international law and the founding principles of the UN, the first of which is equality of sovereignty”<sup>3</sup>

Saudi Arabia is in the forefront of fighting extremism and terrorism in the region and worldwide. Combating terrorism based on its conviction that terrorism has no identity and no religion, and from its belief that the terrorists are committing these acts stemming from their deviant ideologies and evil thought and all its negative ideology throughout the human history never reflected their real beliefs. Terrorists seek to circumvent normal channels for political change by traumatizing the public with brutal acts so that governments feel compelled to either address terrorist demands or divert public funds into hardening potential targets.

Terrorist campaigns are more prevalent in liberal democracies, where the government’s legitimacy hinges on its ability to protect the lives and property of its citizens (*Eubank and Weinberg, 1994*), but in the recent years we have seen Saudi Arabia that is an absolute monarchy, although, according to recent data, has been very active in the region as one of the leading countries fighting terrorism and supporting and financing many campaigns on combating terrorism. For example, The 19th International Conference on Processes of Radicalization and Deradicalization (ICPRD) Jan. 30-31 2017, Jeddah where scientists, researchers and scholars exchanged their views, share their experiences and research all aspects of the processes of radicalization and Deradicalization, as well as “Combating Violent Extremism and Radicalization in the Digital Era.” In September 2011, Saudi Arabia signed an agreement with the United Nations to create the United Nations Counter Terrorism Center (UNCCT) and donated \$10 million to its establishment. The initiative for this center was conceived in 2005, when the late King Abdullah held the “Counter-Terrorism International Conference” in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Crown Prince Mohammad bin Naif, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Interior, on being awarded the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency’s George Tenet Medal by CIA, Director Mike Pompeo, February 10, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> Saudi Arabia and counterterrorism report 2017, pg 23-24.

## Money laundering

a remarkable amount of success has enjoyed the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in raising awareness about terrorist financing and money laundering and inducing states around the world to commit to countering these serious threats, not only in international security. The steps that developing countries have taken to comply with FATF recommendations, which have involved bureaucratic and legal necessary measures have not been sufficient to create an effective AML/CFT regime, and that have led many to believe that these countries are doing a better job protecting against money laundering and terrorist financing than they are. These circumstances highlight many actions that policymakers can take to address deeper the problems faced by developing countries, but, we will not focus in this point just indicted it, otherwise the goal of this research paper will be to spread in many directions.

## Terrorism and counterterrorism

Based on Canter and Kaplan, game theory is an excellent tool to study interactions among targeted governments, between rival terrorist groups, between a terrorist group and its sponsoring state, and among the media, the terrorist group, and the public.\*

Key empirical or theoretical aspects of the terrorism and counterterrorism articles contain certain method and the unit of analysis used (if applicable). There are two theoretical studies that address aspects of counterterrorism. Currently, there are no global counterterrorism data sets available with a wide range of counter terror variables. Some counter terror variables, such as negotiation responses of the authorities have not maintained data sets of their counterterrorism responses; this is generally because these data sets are difficult to acquire.

One of the main goals of this article is to show the instrumental variables (IV), consisting of lagged domestic terrorist attacks in neighboring countries, where it is used mostly a generalized method to show that most of attacks in Saudi Arabian and Middle East are done from the neighboring countries and not from countries that are geographically far from the middle eastern area.

So, in world history comparing different periods we can notice that the annual number of transnational terrorist events referring even to the database used in Section III, of this paper, indicates how there were relatively few such incidents during 1968-2000 at the onset of the modern era of transnational terrorism. As shown, during the Cold War in 1991 roughly coincided with the precipitous drop in transnational terrorism and that was followed with the fall of communism, so many left-wing terrorist groups stopped operations or were defeated by the authorities. These left-wing groups were replaced by more ruthless religious fundamentalist terrorist groups that went for more 'bang for the buck' with fewer incidents containing greater casualties (deaths or injuries) (Enders and Sandler, 2000; Hoffman, 2006; Gaibullov and Sandler, 2014). Following the engagement of every country in a huge reallocation of resources toward counterterrorism, whose efficacy can be best studied and understood with the theoretical and empirical tools drawn from economics studies the consequences of it

remain the focus in in an active research area in International relations and economic affairs.

### **Literature, counterterrorism studies**

How to react to terrorism has become of who we are, as a society and as individuals. Each new attack, each new convulsion of fear anger terror is a “progressively greatest test of enlightened civilization s commitment to its core values”. Since the Cold War, the emphasis on counterterrorism has become an important factor that affects the stability of the world. The war on terrorism has not reduced the threat from terrorism. The terrorist attacks are everywhere from Middle East to Asia and beyond, from the October 2002 Bali bombing, the July 2005 London, suicide attacks at different US consulates, going on with 2008 Mumbai attacks.

Terrorism rarely happens to be unthinkable or unimaginable; it is commonly the use of violence to exert a certain influence. However, the motives and means of terrorism vary widely, having only the common ground that an actor uses violence to send messages to another actor. The influence of terrorism is psychological. He usually creates fewer casualties. For example, the number of American citizens killed every year by terrorists is far smaller than the number of fires caused by fires caused by electrical installations. So how can we prevent terrorism to become a common epidemic worry in the world?

For many years many countries like Middle East and US have possessed better counterterrorism mechanism as well as related response measures to prevent terrorist attacks against their homelands, we can be remained with the terrorist attempted that was conducted one year ago to the Holy City of Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

### **Counterterrorism warfare**

Counterterrorism warfare is an important part of national crisis management. In Risk Management: Theory and Framework, Zhan Zhonguyan discusses the theory of crisis management and the dynamics of the crisis management planning process including five steps and three phases.

These are:

- detecting crisis signals;
- preparing for and preventing a crisis;
- damage control; the conduct of recovery;
- and constant learning and amending.

He defines clearly what a crisis is and believes that decision makers’ capabilities of managing a crisis determine the consequences of a crisis. The continuity of the crisis follows different steps as it occurs: prodromal crisis, acute crisis, chronic crisis, and crisis resolution. No crisis takes place abruptly and ends immediately. Therefore, the government should focus on management capability, including the formulation of crisis management policy and enforcement.

In addition,Zhonguyan also compares and analyzes different countries’ crisis management systems from the viewpoint of disaster prevention, such as the U.S. Federal Emergency

Management Agency (FEMA), and Middle East risk management systems. Partially the influence of terrorism in attracting attention depends on the painful nature of misfortunes, especially when they appear in television news broadcasts. Due to this media draws attention because of the randomness in the selection of its victims. Only though dozens of innocent people can be directly affected by a left-back bomb in an open market, is exactly that moment when millions of people realize, that, they might have been each one, as they also go to the market to buy. Terrorism can turn it out that, multiplies of small amount can be influenced by the its power between psychological impact on large populations, so, it is usually the means of the powerless. In the past, most of terrorism has occurred in the Middle East, Europe, and South Asia. Only during the September 11th, US seriously focused and realized that in an interdependent world, global problems such as terrorism cannot be left alone.

### Conclusions

Academics, states, policy makers, international bodies and legal bodies have competing interests and viewpoints, and the attempt to craft a definition which satisfies these parties, yet remains concise enough to be practical, is argued to be a futile endeavor and one which detracts from the overall attempt to counter the threat of terrorism. Every time we talk about security, they suggest that somehow, our freedoms are threatened.

By the end of the twentieth century, the most frequent country's national security approach should not only focus on military power alone, but it should also expand its approach into different areas and the most important defeating the fighting of terrorism from the begging.

Counterterrorism in the international society should focus not only on real operations, but also on technology, law enforcement, counterterrorism sneak attacks, and hostage negotiations, which are micro-policy issues. However, research on macro-policy of counterterrorism has been neglected in the past. It over-emphasizes striking terrorist forces with military forces and it has given a lower importance to disregards of the elimination of terrorism from the root.

Policy makers understand capacity building measures are a good way to help their countries to strengthen their fighting terrorism resources and regimes, and a great deal of aid in the form of technical assistance has flowed in collaborations of such countries that are mostly touched in recent years. However, the research undertaken in this study has highlighted areas that are particularly in addition to individual country programs such as the U.S. or Saudi Arabia, and this research can therefore be used to target places where technical assistance and resources will do the most good and will assist even other countries to ally and collaborate for a common threat.

Saudi Arabia stressed repeatedly the need to combat and prevent all sources and means of funding terrorism, and it has been clear US, and Kingdom's willingness to work with all partners to combat the use of Internet and social media for terrorist or criminal purposes, including their use in recruitment and propaganda. The importance of working together in international system so that it will not allowed and prevented by all the right measures to be exploited by terrorists and drug traffickers.

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