

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

W3900. SEMINAR ON SOCIETAL ADAPTATIONS TO TERRORISM

Wednesday 2:10- 4:00

Professor Seymour Spilerman
Office hours: Tuesday 1:30-3:30
Fayerweather 401

The effects of terror attacks cascade through the fabric of a society disrupting established routines. At the level of the individual, feelings of fear, anxiety, and stress are generated. These reactions motivate residents to reorganize their daily activities in a way that will diminish exposure to further attacks. In turn, these adaptations have implications for the economy of a country as firms that are viewed as high risk sites are avoided by clients and customers. At the same time, other sectors of the economy, such as protection services, may benefit financially from the heightened trauma and insecurity. The government also plays a considerable role, both protecting the country from future attacks and reassuring the public that they can safely engage in their normal activities.

The societal adjustments appear to differ according to the pattern of terrorist attack (e.g., one or two massive assaults versus frequent attacks over several years), institutional arrangements, population fault lines, and the political structure of the country.

In this seminar we explore the adaptations made in different countries to the threat of terrorist attack--how individuals and organizational actors attempt to insulate themselves and mitigate the consequences of attacks when they cannot be prevented. Special attention is given to Israel and Northern Ireland because the information on these countries is extensive, though the experiences of other countries--e.g., the Basque region of Spain, and Sri Lanka--will be considered.

While the focus of the course is on societal responses to the terrorist threat, it is necessary to also consider the goals and organizational structures of different terrorist groups--what each is attempting to accomplish. Hence, the first part of the course will discuss the rise of terrorism in different countries and the organizational features of terrorist groups.

Course requirements: (1) Individual students/student pairs will be expected to lead a discussion on a section of the readings; (2) Term paper, by individual students/pairs of students; (3) Each student/student pair will present an overview of their term paper as a work in progress.

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior standing.

Course Outline

1. Introduction and overview. Terrorism as a concept. Definitions of terrorism. Relation of terrorism to other types of civil strife--guerilla warfare, lynchings, school attacks such as at Columbine. The category of events to be considered in the course.

Literature

Tilly, Charles. 2004. "Terror, terrorism, terrorists."

Hoffman, Bruce. 2006. Inside Terrorism. Chapter 1.

Turk, Austin T. 2004. "Sociology of Terrorism."

2. A history of terrorism: The Assassins, Sicari, Narodni Volya, the Algerian uprising. Contemporary conflicts in which terrorism has played a role: Northern Ireland, Israel/Palestine, Basque region of Spain, Iraq.

Literature

Shughart, William F. 2006. "An analytical history of terrorism, 1945-2000."

Hoffman, Bruce. 2006. Inside Terrorism. Chapter 2.

Gambetta, Diego. 2005. Making Sense of Suicide Missions. Chapters 3,4.

3. Conditions under which terrorism arises. Organizational structure and goals of terrorist groups. Recruitment issues; psychological dispositions of terrorists. Relation of the aforementioned to the structural organization of a country--its religious, ethnic and social divisions.

Literature

Krueger, A. B. and Maleckova, J. 2003, "Education, poverty and terrorism: Is there a causal connection?"

Victoroff, Jeff. 2005. "The mind of a terrorist."

Hoffman, Bruce. 2006. Inside Terrorism. Chap 3,4,8.

Gambetta, Diego. 2005. Making Sense of Suicide Missions. Chapter 1.

Turk, Austin T. 2004. "Sociology of Terrorism."

4. Types of terrorist attacks. Killing without dying. The particular case of suicide terrorism. Motivations of suicide bombers. The rationality of suicide terrorism.

Literature

Atrann, Scott. 2003. "Genesis of Suicide Terrorism."

Hoffman, Bruce. 2006. Inside Terrorism. Chap 5.

Gambetta, Diego. 2005. Making Sense of Suicide Missions. Chaps 6,7,8.

Haddad, Simon. 2004. "A comparative study of Lebanese and Palestinian Perceptions of suicide bombings."

5. Collective violence, collective perils and societal responses. Lynching in American South. The literature on disasters. Results from bombing surveys. Theories of responses. How adaptations to terrorism differ from the assessments in those literatures.

Literature

Kimmerling, Baruch. 1985 The Interrupted System. Chaps 1,2.

Cantril, Hadley. 1963. "The Lynch Mob."

Tierney, Kathleen J. 2007. "Disaster Research at the Crossroads"

Quarantelli E., and R. Dynes. 1977. "Response to social crisis and disaster."

6. Types of terrorist attacks and societal adaptations to the terrorist threat. (i) The massive, but rare event such as 9/11. (ii) Frequent attacks over a long period. Societal responses to the first type of attack.

Literature

Grosskopf, Kevin. 2006. "Evaluating the Societal Response to Antiterrorism Measures."

Salib, Emad. 2003. "Effect of 11 September 2001 on suicide and homicide in England and Wales."

Vlahov, David et. al. 2002. "Increased Use of Cigarettes, Alcohol, and Marijuana after the September 11th Terrorist Attacks."

Schuster, M. et. al. 2001. "A national survey of stress reactions after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks."

7. The case of repeated attacks: Results from Israel and Northern Ireland. (a)-The impact on individuals and families. Effects on social stress, mental health, road accidents, and suicide.

Literature

Stecklov, Guy and Joshua Goldstein. 2004. "Terror attacks influence driving behavior in Israel."

Gidron, Yori et. al. 2004. "Terror-related post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms in Israeli citizens."

Gidron, Yori, R. Gal and S. Zahavi. 1999. "Bus commuters' coping strategies: An example of the Israeli experience."

Gambetta, Diego and Heather Hamill. 2003. Streetwise: How Taxi Drivers Establish Customers' Trustworthiness. Chapters 1,2 (on Belfast).

8. Repeated attacks. (b)-The impact of terror on economic life. Broad effects on the economy. What happens to financial markets, tourism, the airline industry.

Literature

Eldor, Rafi and Rafi Melnick. 2004. "Financial Markets and Terrorism."

Morag, Nadav. 2006. "The economic and social effects of intensive terrorism."

Neumayer, Eric. 2004. "The impact of political violence on tourism."

Mansfeld, Yoel. 1999. "Cycles of war, terror, and peace: Determinants and management of crisis and recovery."

9. Repeated attacks. (b)-Continued. The effects of terror on bus ridership, retail store sales, patronage of restaurants and coffee shops. Adaptations by commercial actors to protect their client base. The impact of terrorism on protection services. The organization of guard firms in light of the highly variable demand for their services.

Literature

Becker, Gary and Y. Rubinstein. 2004. "Fear and the response to terrorism: An economic analysis." (mimeo).

Berrebi, Claude and Esteban Klor. 2005. "The impact of terrorism across different industries: An empirical study."

Gambetta, Diego and Heather Hamill. 2003. Streetwise: How Taxi Drivers Establish Customers' Trustworthiness. Chapters 3,4,5 (on Belfast).

10. Repeated attacks. (c)-The government response in the civilian sector. The role of NGO's; ZAKA. The impact of terror on the political system.

Literature

Stadler, Nurit et. al. 2005. "Terror, Aid, and Organization."

Pedahzur, Ami. 2001. "Struggling with the challenges of right-wing extremism and terrorism within democratic boundaries."

Berrebi, Claude and Esteban Klor. 2004. "On Terrorism and Electoral Outcomes"

11. Terrorism tomorrow. What is in the future in regard to forms of terrorist attacks and societal adjustments.

Literature

Hoffman, Bruce. 2006. Inside Terrorism. Chap 9.

Tucker, Jonathan. 2003. "Strategies for Countering Terrorism: Lessons from the Israeli Experience."

12-13. Student presentations of term papers.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

NOTE: Students are required to purchase Gambetta and Hamill (2003), Gambetta (2005) and Hoffman (2006). All readings are on reserve in Butler library or available on Courseworks.

A. Books:

Cantril, Hadley. 1963. The Psychology of Social Movements. New York: Wiley.
Chapter 4: "The Lynch Mob."

Gambetta, Diego. 2005. Making Sense of Suicide Missions. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Gambetta, Diego and Heather Hamill. 2003. Streetwise: How Taxi Drivers Establish Customers' Trustworthiness. New York: Russell Sage.
Chapters 3,4,5.

Hoffman, Bruce. 2006. Inside Terrorism. New York: Columbia University Press.

Kimmerling, Baruch. 1985 The Interrupted System: Israeli Civilians in War and Routine Times. New Brunswick: Transaction Books. Chapters 1,2.

B. Articles:

Atrann, Scott. 2003. "Genesis of Suicide Terrorism." Science 299. Pp. 1534-39.

Baum, Andrew and Angela Liegey Dougall. 2002. "Terrorism and behavioral medicine" Current Opinion in Psychiatry 15 Pp. 617-621.

Becker, Gary and Y. Rubinstein. 2004. "Fear and the response to terrorism: An economic analysis." (mimeo).
<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/international/events/upload/BeckerrubinsteinPaper.pdf>.

- Berrebi, Claude and Esteban Klor. 2004. "On Terrorism and Electoral Outcomes: Theory and Evidence from the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" (mimeo).
- Berrebi, Claude and Esteban Klor. 2005. "The impact of terrorism across different industries: An empirical study" (mimeo).
- Eldor, Rafi and Rafi Melnick. 2004. "Financial Markets and Terrorism." European Journal of Political Economy, 20(2). Pages 367-386.
- Krueger, A. B. and Maleckova, J. 2003, "Education, poverty and terrorism: Is there a causal connection?" Journal of Economic Perspectives 17(4). Pp.119-144.
- Gidron, Yori, Yosi Kaplan, Avital Velt, and Rozi Shalem. 2004. "Prevalence and moderators of terror-related post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms in Israeli citizens." Israel Medical Association Journal 6. Pp. 387-391.
- Gidron, Yori, R. Gal and S. Zahavi. 1999. "Bus commuters' coping strategies and anxiety from terrorism: An example of the Israeli experience." Journal of Traumatic Stress 12. Pp. 185-92.
- Grosskopf, Kevin. 2006. "Evaluating the Societal Response to Antiterrorism Measures." Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management 3(2). Pp. 1-9.
- Haddad, Simon. 2004. "A comparative study of Lebanese and Palestinian Perceptions of suicide bombings: The role of militant Islam and socio-economic status." International Journal of Comparative Sociology 45. Pp. 337-63.
- Mansfeld, Yoel. 1999. "Cycles of war, terror, and peace: Determinants and management of crisis and recovery of the Israeli tourism industry." Journal of Travel Research 38. Pp. 30-36.
- Morag, Nadav. 2006. "The economic and social effects of intensive terrorism: Israel 2000-2004." Middle East Review of International Affairs. 10(3). Pp. 120-141.
- Neumayer, Eric. 2004. "The impact of political violence on tourism." Journal of Conflict Resolution 48(2). Pp. 259-81.
- Pedahzur, Ami. 2001. "Struggling with the challenges of right-wing extremism and terrorism within democratic boundaries: A comparative analysis." Studies in Conflict and Terrorism. 24. Pp. 339-59.
- Quarantelli E., and R. Dynes. 1977. "Response to social crisis and disaster." Annual Review of Sociology 3. Pp. 23-49.
- Salib, Emad. 2003. "Effect of 11 September 2001 on suicide and homicide in England and Wales." British Journal of Psychiatry 183. Pp. 207-212.
- Schuster, M. et. al. 2001. "A national survey of stress reactions after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks." New England Journal of Medicine 345(20). Pp. 1507-12.

- Shughart, William F. 2006. "An analytical history of terrorism, 1945-2000." Public Choice 128. Pp.7-39.
- Stadler, Nurit, Ben-Ari, Eyal and Einat Mesterman. 2005. "Terror, Aid and Organization: The Haredi Disaster Victim Identification Teams (ZAKA) in Israel" Anthropological Quarterly 78(3). Pp. 619-651.
- Stecklov, Guy and Joshua Goldstein. 2004. "Terror attacks influence driving behavior in Israel." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. 101(40). Pp. 14551-56.
- Tierney, Kathleen J. 2007. "From the Margins to the Mainstream? Disaster Research at the Crossroads" Annual Review of Sociology 33. Pp. 503-25.
- Tilly, Charles. 2004. "Terror, terrorism, terrorists." Sociological Theory 22(1). Pages 5-13.
- Tucker, Jonathan. 2003. "Strategies for Countering Terrorism: Lessons from the Israeli Experience" Journal of Homeland Security (March). Pp. 1-11. www.homelandsecurity.org/journal/Articles/tucker-israel.html
- Turk, Austin T. 2004. "Sociology of Terrorism." Annual Review of Sociology 30. Pp. 271-86.
- Victoroff, Jeff. 2005. "The mind of a terrorist: A review and critique of psychological approaches." Journal of Conflict Resolution. 49(1). Pp. 3-42.
- Vlahov, David, Sandro Galea, Heidi Resnick, Jennifer Ahern, Joseph A. Boscarino, Michael Bucuvalas, Joel Gold, and Dean Kilpatrick. 2002. "Increased Use of Cigarettes, Alcohol, and Marijuana among Manhattan, New York, Residents after the September 11th Terrorist Attacks." American Journal of Epidemiology 155(11). Pp. 988-996.