

# International Terrorism

## TEACHER DEBRIEFING SHEET

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are the social, political, economic, and religious causes and effects of terrorism?
2. Compare and contrast the causes, effects, goals, and methods of war and terrorism.
3. Describe the similarities and differences between domestic, state, transnational, and state-sponsored terrorism.
4. How should the world respond to each of the four different categories of terrorism (domestic, state, transnational, and state-sponsored terrorism)?
5. How can terrorism be prevented, contained, and/or eliminated?

### TASK:

Hold a press conference on terrorism. Your press conference should address the following topic: what is terrorism and why does it exist? The press conference must also address the topic of preventing, containing, and/or eliminating terrorism. Appropriate government officials and/or experts should speak at the press conference and members of the press should ask questions.

### TASK EVALUATION CRITERIA:

- Press conference addresses the topic: what is terrorism and why does it exist?
- Press conference makes use of three or more of the following: props, costumes, personal testimony (firsthand accounts), backdrops, and/or audience involvement.
- Press conference includes at least five pieces of specific information about terrorism (people, organizations, vocabulary, data, etc.).
- Press conference includes multiple perspectives, including those of government leaders, terrorism experts, and ordinary citizens from a variety of locations around the globe.
- Press conference addresses how terrorism can be prevented, contained, and/or eliminated.

### Extension Questions:

1. Why might states sponsor terrorism? How do you think the world community should respond to state-sponsored terrorism?
2. Why do you think terrorist groups and terrorist activity are becoming more common around the world?
3. How are the causes of domestic terrorism similar to or different from the causes of state-sponsored terrorism?
4. What are some of the challenges the world community faces in trying to eliminate biological and chemical terrorism?
5. How are international terrorism and world health related?
6. If you were responsible for gathering data to counter terrorism in the United States, what would you chart and why?
7. Describe three ways that terrorism affects your life.
8. How are terrorism and regional conflict management related?
9. What do you think is more effective in achieving political goals, terrorism or international diplomacy? Explain.
10. How are terrorism and international finance related?

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## ACTIVITY CARD



Read the HISTORICAL BACKGROUND and CONTEXT-SETTING CARDS. Then use the information on your RESOURCE CARDS to talk about the DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.



Examine the TASK and complete the project to meet all of the TASK EVALUATION CRITERIA.

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## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND CARD

**Terrorism** is the unlawful use of threats and/or violence to create fear, usually used to achieve a political, economic, social, and/or religious goal.

Historically, terrorism has been used by individuals, groups, and governments to achieve more political, economic, social, and/or religious power. For example, during the period of the French Revolution known as the Reign of Terror (1793-1794), the revolutionary government (under the leadership of Maximilien Robespierre) used the guillotine (device used to kill people by cutting their heads off) to terrorize the so-called “enemies of the revolution.” During the Reign of Terror, the guillotine was used to execute thousands of French citizens. In 1881, the Russian terrorist group the People’s Will – whose goal was to end autocratic rule and replace it with representative government and rights such as freedom of speech and assembly – used bombs to assassinate the Russian leader, Tsar Alexander II. The People’s Will had members in approximately fifty cities throughout the Russian Empire. World War I is also linked to terrorism, as it started largely as a result of the 1914 assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand, who was next in line to become the leader of Austria-Hungary. Ferdinand was assassinated by a member of the Serbian terrorist group the Black Hand, whose goal was to unite the Serbian people and territory ruled by Austria-Hungary with the independent nation of Serbia.

In recent history, and particularly since 9/11, while terrorism continues to be used by people of many ethnic, religious, and racial backgrounds all around the world, discussions of terrorism have focused primarily (mainly) on the Middle East.

Following the September 11, 2001 attack on the United States, the U.S. government launched an attack on Afghanistan, whose strict Islamic Taliban government aided (helped) the al-Qaeda terrorists who had carried out the 9/11 attack. In March of 2003, the U.S. President, George Bush, led an international coalition into war against Iraq. Bush and others had made the case for extending the War on Terror to Iraq, where it was alleged that the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, was developing weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons). The government of Saddam Hussein was toppled, and since then Saddam Hussein was tried, convicted, and executed for crimes against his people. The war in Iraq continues as the U.S.-led coalition attempts to help the Iraqi people create a democracy. This effort has been marred (hurt) by fighting, including terrorist attacks, between rival ethnic, religious, and political groups (including majority Shiite Muslims, minority Sunni Muslims and ethnic Kurds) in Iraq.

Terrorism is also widespread in Israel. The Jewish state of Israel was created in 1948 in the Jews’ ancient homeland in the Middle East. The creation of Israel displaced the Palestinian people who had, prior to 1948, lived in and laid claim to the territory that became Israel. Since 1948, the Palestinian people have used a variety of methods, including terrorist attacks in more recent decades, to try to get Israel and the world to understand their plight (situation).

### 9/11

On September 11, 2001, Muslim terrorists hijacked four U.S. airplanes and used them as suicide bombs, crashing into key U.S. political, economic, and military targets, including the World Trade Center towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, DC. 2,973 people were killed in the 9/11 attacks, including people on the planes and on the ground, and including both Americans and foreign nationals.



The World Trade Center towers ablaze on the morning of September 11, 2001

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## CONTEXT SETTING CARD

Terrorism can be examined in terms of who commits the terrorist acts and where the acts are committed. Using this perspective, terrorism can be broken down into four categories: 1) Domestic Terrorism, 2) State Terrorism, 3) Transnational Terrorism, and 4) State-Sponsored Terrorism.

**Domestic terrorism** is terrorism practiced within a country by people without ties to any government. For example:

**Bombing of the Murrah Federal Building  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, U.S. 1995**

On April 19, 1995, around 9:03 a.m., a truck exploded at the Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City. A stunned nation watched as the bodies of men, women, and children were pulled from the rubble for nearly two weeks. 168 people were killed. The attack was carried out by Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, two anti-government American terrorists.

**State terrorism** is terrorism practiced by a government on its own citizens. For example:

**Attacks on the Kurdish Population,  
Iraq, 1980s**

Under the leadership of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi military carried out a campaign against the minority ethnic Kurdish population in Iraq. World attention was drawn to the plight of (problems facing) the Kurds after chemical weapons were used against them in the city of Halabja on March 16, 1988, killing 5,000 and wounding many thousands more, many of whom later died as a result.

**Transnational terrorism** is terrorism practiced across borders by people without ties to any government. For example:

**Hijacking of a TWA Airliner,  
United States, 1976**

On September 10, 1976, five members of the Croatian Freedom Fighters hijacked a TWA airliner flying from New York to Chicago. The group demanded that major newspapers in the United States and France print a manifesto (statement) demanding Croatia's independence from Yugoslavia; they also demanded the release of Croatian prisoners. A policeman in New York was killed, and three others were wounded while trying to defuse a bomb left in a train station by the Croatian Freedom Fighters, who warned that another bomb would explode elsewhere in the United States if their demands were not met. After thirty hours, the plane arrived in Paris, where the terrorists surrendered.

**State-Sponsored Terrorism** is terrorism sponsored by a government in one or more foreign countries. For example:

**The Iran Hostage Crisis,  
American Embassy,  
Iran 1979-1981**

On November 4, 1979, 3,000 militants overran the U.S. Embassy (considered to be United States soil) in Teheran, Iran and captured 52 embassy staff members. Religious extremist and Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini praised their actions. The militants demanded that: 1) the Shah, who ruled Iran for decades and was now seeking medical treatment in the West, be turned over to them for trial; 2) the United States apologize for crimes against the Iranian people; and 3) the Shah's assets be paid to them. The hostages were released 444 days after they were taken, after U.S. President Ronald Reagan eased economic sanctions against Iran.

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## RESOURCE CARD 1 (OF 4) Who: Who Are the Terrorists?

Terrorists include men and women, old and young, and members of many religions, races, and ethnic groups.

### Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC)

FARC was founded in 1964 with the primary goal of taking political control of Columbia. This revolutionary group uses terror tactics against all kinds of targets, including military, economic, and government targets. FARC controls much of the drug trade in Columbia and, as a result, is well-financed (wealthy). In one week in January of 2007 alone, FARC killed five police officers in a bomb attack near the border with Ecuador, killed two police officers and four civilians in a bomb attack in Buenaventura (a port city important in the drug trade), and bombed a milk storage plant run by the Swiss company Nestle.

### 10 Most Active Terrorist Groups (2005) (by number of incidents)

1. al-Qaeda Organization in the Land of the Two Rivers ( also known as al-Qaeda in Iraq) (190)
2. Hamas (183)
3. Taliban (100)
4. Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist (93)
5. Communist Party of India – Maoist (90)
6. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (also known as the Tamil Tigers) (62)
7. Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (also known as FARC) (61)
8. Palestinian Islamic Jihad (53)
9. Ansar-al-Sunnah Army (42)
10. al-Fatah (also known as Fateh) (33)

### Al-Qaeda in Iraq

In September 2004, the former Monotheism and Holy War group, led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi (who was killed in the summer of 2006), became known as al-Qaeda in Iraq. The mission of al-Qaeda in Iraq includes getting the U.S.-led forces out of Iraq, taking down the current interim government, removing the majority Shiite Muslims from power, and installing a Sunni Muslim government.



Al-Qaeda in Iraq was responsible for the deadliest terror attack of 2005: a suicide bombing at a health clinic in the Iraqi city of Al-Hillah. (February 28, 125 killed, 140 wounded)

*“The Futile Search for Root Causes of Terrorism”  
(excerpted) by Michael Radu, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute:*

Those who hold to "poverty as the root cause" [of terrorism] do so even though the data does not fit their model. Even leaving aside multimillionaire Osama bin Laden, the backgrounds of the September 11 killers indicates that they were without exception scions [descendants] of privilege: all were either affluent [wealthy] Saudis and Egyptians, citizens of the wealthy Gulf statelets, or rich sons of Lebanon, trained in and familiar with the ways of the West—not exactly the victims of poverty in Muslim dictatorships. Many poor Egyptians, Moroccans, and Palestinians may support terrorists, but they do not—and cannot—provide them with recruits. In fact, Al Qaeda has no use for illiterate peasants. They cannot participate in World Trade Center-like attacks, unable as they are to make themselves inconspicuous [unnoticeable] in the West and lacking the education and training terrorist operatives need.

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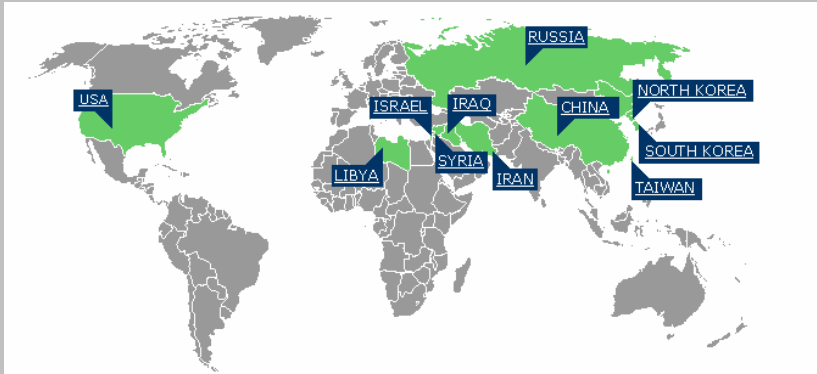
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## RESOURCE CARD 2 (OF 4)

### What: What Types of Terrorist Attacks Occur?

Terrorists throughout the world use a variety of tactics, including: torture, hijacking, assassination, kidnapping, hostage-taking, bombing, biological attacks, chemical attacks, and cyber attacks (attacks against computers and computer networks).



Two of the least used yet most fearsome types of terrorism are chemical and biological attacks. This map shows the countries believed by experts to have developed chemical and/or biological weapons.

### 5 Most Most Frequently Used Terror Tactics (2005) (by number of incidents)

1. Bombing (2650)
2. Armed attack (1532)
3. Kidnapping (310)
4. Assassination (159)
5. Arson (114)

### Hostage-Taking: Beslan, Russia

In 1991, Chechnya declared its independence from Russia. In the years following, Russia used military force to prevent Chechnya from separating from Russia. In September of 2004, on the first day of the school year, Chechen terrorists stormed a school in the Russian city of Beslan, taking more than 1100 hostages (children, parents, and teachers) and demanding the withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechnya. Three days later, the terrorist attack ended with a gunfire fight between Russian security forces and the terrorists. In the end, nearly 350 were dead, half of whom were children.



Beslan is located in the Russian region of North Ossetia, about 1000 miles south of Moscow.

### Chemical Attack & Possible Cyber Attack: Tokyo, Japan

On March 20, 1995, members of the Aum Shinrikyo cult (group) spread sarin gas on five different subway trains in Tokyo, Japan. As a result of the attack, 12 people were killed, and nearly 6,000 were injured. It is believed that the cult carried out the attack to bring the end of the world closer. More recently, in 2000, Japan's Defense Agency discovered that one of the subcontractors who had worked to develop computer software for the Defense Agency was associated with Aum Shinrikyo. As a result, the Japanese government delayed using the software because they feared a cyber attack.



The aftermath of the sarin gas attack in Tokyo, Japan, March 20, 1995

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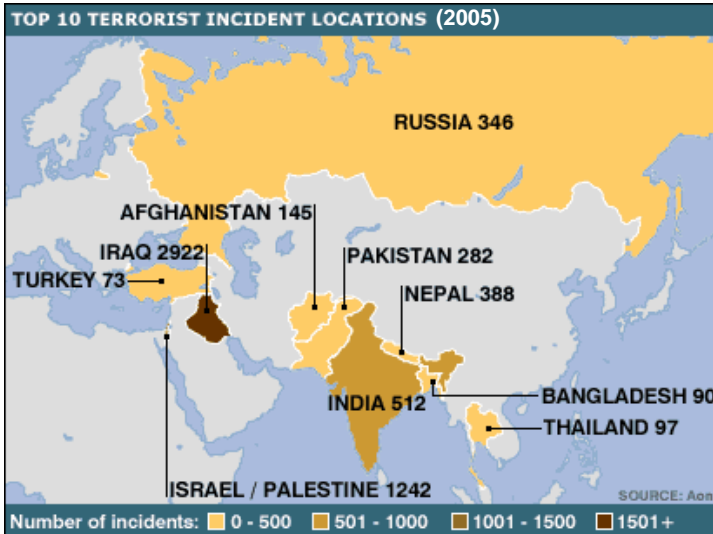
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## RESOURCE CARD 3 (OF 4)

### Where: Where Does Terrorism Occur?

Terrorism takes place in countries around the world, and is carried out against a great variety of government and non-government targets.



### 10 Most Frequent Terror Targets (2005) (by number of incidents)

1. Police (1160)
2. Government (1160)
3. Private citizens & property (901)
4. Other (351)
5. Business (242)
6. Utilities (221)
7. Educational institutions (185)
8. Religious figures & institutions (176)
9. Transportation (140)
10. Unknown (88)

#### Israel/Palestine

On July 12, 2005, a suicide bomber killed 5 people and injured 90 more outside a shopping mall in Netanya, Israel. Two of the victims and many of the wounded were teenagers. Palestinian Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack.



Yevgeny Lifshitz's wife Anna, 50, their daughter, Margarita, 26, and her daughter, Lial, 3, were among those wounded in the attack. According to Lifshitz, "The country was calm, and they had no concerns about going [to the mall]. Apparently, people have to be holed up at home to save their lives."

#### India & Pakistan

Since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, largely Hindu India and mainly Muslim Pakistan have fought for control over the Kashmir region. Over the decades, the fighting on both sides has included both official military actions (wars) as well as terrorist attacks.



On July 7, 2006, seven bombs exploded throughout the subway system in Mumbai, India, killing 186 people. The Indian government claims that the Pakistani Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorist group, which challenges India's claims to Kashmir, was responsible. The group denies responsibility. The investigation is ongoing.

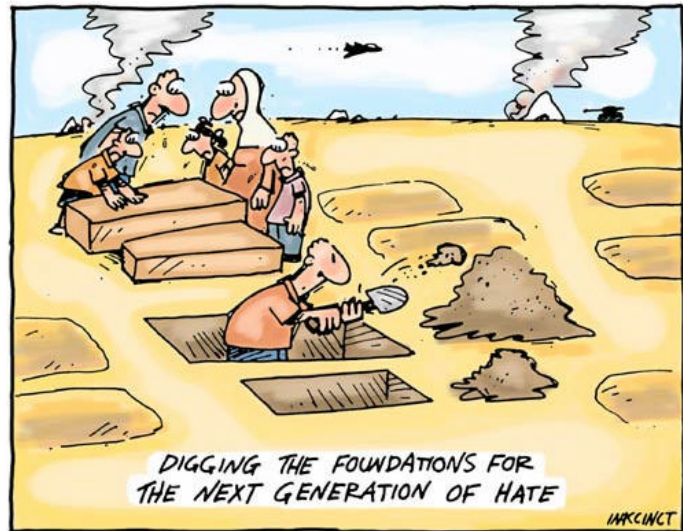
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## RESOURCE CARD 4 (OF 4) Why: Why Does Terrorism Occur?

When terrorism occurs, one of the natural responses to it is to try to understand why the terrorist acts occurred. People look for the root causes of terrorism in the hopes that those causes can be eliminated, thereby eliminating terrorism.



*South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, January 2007:*

The war on terror in the world will never be won by force and injustice. It will remain a problem as long as there are conditions in the world that make people desperate, like dehumanizing poverty, disease, and ignorance.

*"Terrorism's New Mecca" (excerpted) by Jessica Stern in The Globe and Mail, November 28, 2003:*

[Thoughts on the causes of terrorism...]

Several possible root causes [of terrorism] have been identified, including, among others, poverty, lack of education, abrogation [removal of] of human rights, the perception [belief] that the enemy is weak-willed. I've been interviewing terrorists around the world over the past five years. Those I interviewed cite [list] many reasons for choosing a life of holy war, and I came to despair [give up hope] of identifying a single root cause of terrorism. But the variable [factor] that came up most frequently was not poverty or human-rights abuses, but perceived [felt] humiliation. Humiliation emerged at every level of the terrorist groups I studied — leaders and followers.

[Thoughts on the purposes of jihad (holy war in the name of Islam)...]

The "New World Order" is a source of humiliation for Muslims. And for the youth of Islam, it is better to carry arms and defend their religion with pride and dignity than to submit [give in to] to this humiliation. Part of the mission [purpose] of jihad is to restore [bring back] Muslims' pride in the face of humiliation. Violence, in other words, restores the dignity [pride] of humiliated youth. Its target audience is not necessarily the victims and their sympathizers, but the perpetrators and their sympathizers. Violence is a way to strengthen support for the organization and the movement it represents.

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## INDIVIDUAL REPORT

Compare and contrast two types of terrorism (domestic, state, transnational, and state-sponsored) and then discuss how you think each of those two types of terrorism can be resolved.

### Evaluation Criteria

- Response clearly defines two types of terrorism (choose from domestic, state, transnational, and state-sponsored).
- Response includes at least one specific example to help support your description of each of those two types of terrorism.
- Response includes discussion of the social, political, and/or economic causes and effects of each of the two types of terrorism.
- Response includes at least one way that each of the two types of terrorism can be resolved.