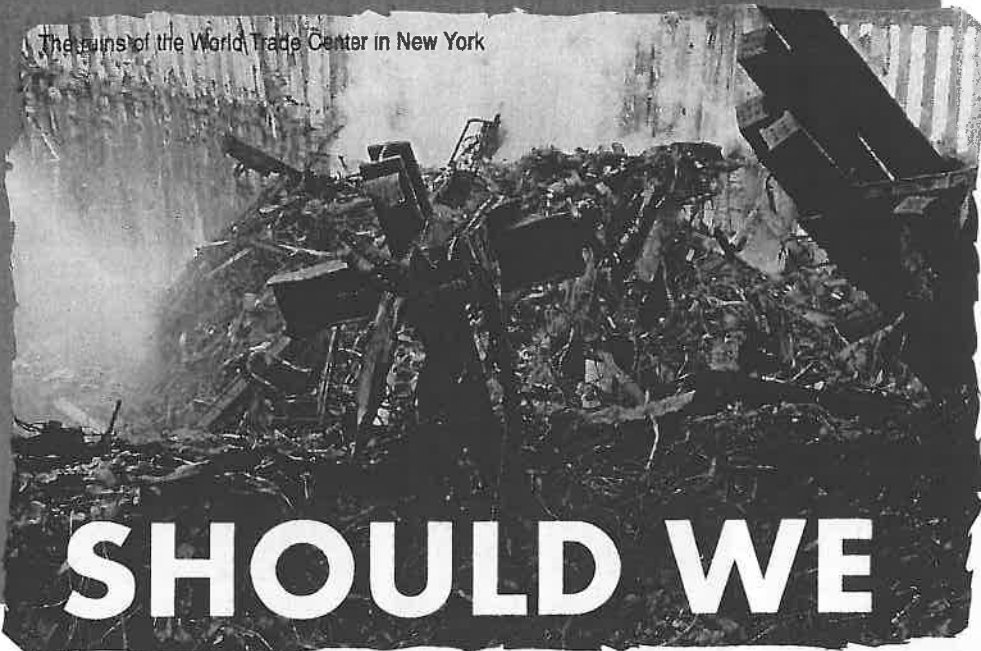


The ruins of the World Trade Center in New York



SHOULD WE LIVE IN FEAR?

The threat of terrorism

Terrorism is a word that most people in the world are familiar with. It was first recorded in English in 1798, in reference to the "Reign of Terror" that Maximilien Robespierre conducted during the French Revolution. We all have ideas about terrorism, but we rarely realize how difficult it can be to determine the criteria to define what terrorism actually is.

CRITERIA FOR TERRORISM

1. PURPOSE

It seems that the general purpose of terrorism is to stimulate some kind of change from a particular government. Most of the historical and modern terrorist organizations have specific political goals that they are trying to achieve. In some cases, these goals can be as simple as one or two changes wanted from the government (e.g. laws passed, leaders to resign, etc.); in many cases, though, the main political goal of a terrorist organization is to separate a land or region from the country that governs them (such as ETA fighting for separation of the Basque region from Spain) or remove the system of government in a country **altogether**.

However, it is important to note that not all people who oppose governments are terrorists. Mahatma Gandhi was a very famous political activist against British rule in India in the mid-20th century, and he actually succeeded in helping India achieve its independent government. But Gandhi is not considered a terrorist; in fact, he is still today remembered as a model for political activism.

It is also worth noting that not all terrorists are motivated by politics; sometimes it can be religion or something as simple as a large amount of money, which is the reason behind a terrorist threat.

2. VIOLENCE AND FEAR

One thing that is a certainty when defining the word terrorism is that violence is used to achieve the goals. Terrorist organizations are famous for their bombings and killing; this is a big reason why Gandhi cannot be considered a terrorist, because he is famous

FAMOUS TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS AND TERRORISTS

Despite the fact that the word "terrorism" is hard to define, there are some organizations and people who are generally agreed upon by most of the world to meet the terrorist criteria.

Al-Qaeda: It is currently still active in Afghanistan, Algeria, Iraq, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, and widely believed to have **extensive cells** in Britain, Canada and the United States. Al-Qaeda is most famous for their September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in the United States. Osama Bin Laden is the well-known leader of Al-Qaeda, and he is still generally thought by many to be alive today.

Hezbollah: Considered a terrorist organization by Australia, Canada, Israel, the Netherlands, the UK, and the US, Hezbollah is located primarily in Lebanon, **where many locals see them as a legitimate resistance movement against Israel**. The European Union does not list Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, but **has recognized evidence of terrorist activity by Hezbollah**.

Hamas: It is a Palestinian militant organization fighting against the State of Israel. Hamas believes Israel **has no right to occupy** the Palestinian territories on West Bank of the Jordan River and in Gaza Strip, and it is famous for **carrying out suicide bombings**.

IRA: It is a **left-wing, paramilitary organization striving for the independence** of Northern Ireland. In 2005, the IRA (Irish Republican Army) announced that they had ended their **armed campaign to seek their goals through more peaceful means**. However, during what was called "the Troubles", from roughly 1969-1997, the IRA was responsible for an estimated 1,800 deaths, 650 of those deaths being civilians.

KKK: The KKK (Ku Klux Klan) is a white **supremacist** organization based especially the South-East of the United States, and their target is all minority groups. In the 1950s and 1960s, their attacks on African Americans **prompted the country to update its civil liberty laws**. The KKK has been recognized as a terrorist organization since as far back as 1869.



Hezbollah, officially listed by some countries as a terrorist organization, started with only a militia (= civilians trained as soldiers, but not part of the regular army), but now it is also a political party which has seats in the Lebanese government.

for his **insistence on** non-violent protest. Fear is a very important aspect of terrorism; it is the strongest tool a terrorist has because it keeps people afraid that the bad things that have happened in the past will happen again, unless the terrorists get what they want.

3. TARGETS

There is a **sharp distinction** between terrorists and **assassins**: Terrorists do not usually choose people of any political importance as their target. Civilians, everyday people, are who terrorists use as the subject of their terror **in order to try to coerce** politically important people. Although the assassinations of Franz Ferdinand, Gandhi, John F. Kennedy, and other important people were violent political messages, they are typically not considered acts of terrorism because everyday citizens did not generally feel the threat that they would be attacked as well. In many cases,

who exactly qualifies as a "terrorist" really **depends on your point of view** – as the old saying goes, "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter".

THE FUTURE OF TERRORISM

Although some areas of the world are **more prone to** terrorist attacks than others, the World Trade Center attacks in 2001 **have had the Western world more on edge** than it had been **previously**. Since 9/11, many people have wondered and worried, who could possibly be safe from terrorism – if the previously **impenetrable** United States isn't safe, then why should we consider ourselves safe? Others, though, have refused to live their lives in fear of terrorism; after all, don't terrorists *want* us to live in fear? And

if we *do* live in fear, then doesn't that mean that the terrorists have already won?

Although it is impossible to say exactly what the future of terrorism will be, there are many national governments and militaries that **have allied themselves together to combat** the growing power of terrorism. For example, after 9/11, NATO sent **troops** from 26 of its member countries, including 224 soldiers from the Czech Republic to Afghanistan, with the specific goal of destabilizing the Taliban government and eliminating Al-Qaeda's **recruiting and training facilities**.

Some predictions for the future include: even more **tightening** of already strict air travel, an increase in foreign **intelligence and espionage**, and more international **treaties** being signed regarding how to react to a terrorist threat (for example, having many countries agree to a **"no negotiating" rule**, which would not support terrorists and their causes in the future).
Jeff Gulley (Canada)

NO KIDS FOR US?

According to a recent survey by the UK's Mental Health Foundation, 1 in 7 adults (15%) don't want to have children. The reason? Most of these people (70%) said they are worried about terrorism. In addition, 27% of people in the survey said they don't plan for the future much because of world troubles. Dr Andrew McCulloch from the Mental Health Foundation, explained: "Even if a threat [such as terrorism] poses very little actual risk, the worry is still real and can impact on a person's day-to-day life." He suggests people learn more about issues that make them worry and remember that the chances of actually being caught up in a terrorism act are very slim.
Mary Matz (USA)

→ Vocabulary

in reference to ['ref(ə)r(ə)ns] - coby odkaz na
to conduct [kən'dʌkt] - zavést
altogether [ɔ:l'te'geðə] - úplně
it is also worth noting [wəθ] - taky stojí za zmínku
that is a certainty ['sə:t(ə)nti] - která je jistá
insistence on [ɪn'sɪst(ə)ns] - trvání na (něčem), vyžadování (něčeho)
target ['tɑ:ɡɪt] - cíl
sharp distinction [ʃɑ:p dɪ'stɪŋk(ə)n] - výrazný rozdíl
assassin [ə'sæsɪn] - vrah, atentátník
in order to try to coerce [kəʊ'si:s] - aby se pokusili vydírat
depends on your point of view [dɪ'pendz] - záleží na úhlu pohledu
are more prone to [praʊn] - jsou náchylnější k (něčemu), jsou ohroženější (něčím)

have had... more on edge [edʒ] - znervóznil
previously ['pri:vɪəsli] - předtím
impenetrable [ɪm'penɪtrəb(ə)l] - neproniknutelný
have allied themselves together to combat [ə'laɪd 'kɒmbæt] - se spojily dohromady, aby bojovaly proti
troops [tru:ps] - jednotky, vojáci
recruiting and training facilities [rɪ'krʊtɪŋ fə'sɪltɪz] - náborová a výcviková střediska
tightening ['taɪt(ə)nɪŋ] - zpřísnění
intelligence and espionage [ɪn'telɪdʒ(ə)ns 'espɪənsɔ:ʒ] - zpravodajských služeb a špionáže
treaty ['tri:ti] - dohoda
"no negotiating" rule [nɪ'ɡəʊ|ntɪŋɪŋ] - pravidlo nevjednávání

FAMOUS TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS
extensive cells [ɪk'stensɪv sɛlz] - početné (teronstické) buňky

where many locals see them as a legitimate resistance movement
against [ɪr'dʒɪtmət rɪ'zɪst(ə)ns] - kde ho mnozí lidé považují za legitimní hnutí odporu proti
has recognized evidence ['eɪvɪd(ə)ns] - uznala důkazy
has no right to occupy ['ɒkjʊpaɪ] - nemá právo okupovat
to carry out - provést, uskutečnit
suicide bombings ['su:saɪd 'bɒmɪŋz] - sebevražedné bombové útoky
left-wing, paramilitary organization striving for [pərə'mɪlɪ(ə)rɪ strarvɪŋ] - levicová polovojenská organizace usilující o
armed campaign to seek their goals through more peaceful means [ɑ:md kæm'peɪn si:k] - ozbrojené tažení a bude se snažit dosahovat svých cílů mírovějšími prostředky
supremacist [su:'preməsɪst] - rasistická

prompted the country to update its civil liberty laws [prɒm(p)td ɪp'dert 'lɪbətɪ] - přiměly zemi, aby změnila svůj občanský zákoník

● Language point

The sentence "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter" (= sb can be thought of as terrorist by some people, while other people believe him to be a freedom fighter) is a variation of the common English saying "One man's meat is another man's poison." This saying means that something one person likes very much can be strongly disliked by another person. (eg. I wouldn't want to do his job, but he seems to love it. Well, one man's meat is another man's poison.)