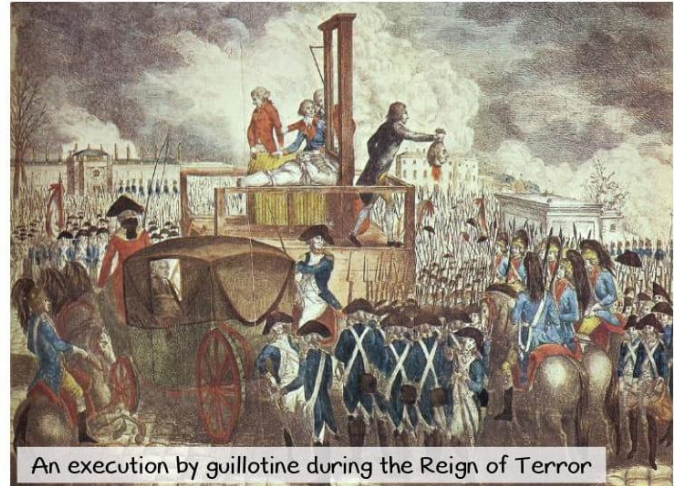


# Introduction

The history of terrorism is as old as mankind. The oldest records about the history of terrorism date back to the first century AD. A Jewish group, called the Sicarii, killed people who worked together with the Ancient Romans in an attempt to drive out the Romans from Judea (the land of the Jews).

The English term of 'terrorism' was first used during the French Revolution in the 19th century. The Jacobins, who ruled France during its revolution, used violence and intimidation to make ordinary people obey their regime. This event is known as 'The Reign of Terror'.



An execution by guillotine during the Reign of Terror

Terrorism is defined as the use (or threat) of violence for a religious or political goal. Terrorists use fear and violence to intimidate societies or governments. Many different kinds of organizations have used terrorism to achieve their goals. It has been practiced by nationalist groups, religious groups and even ruling governments. These organizations have different aims. Some left-winged organizations have tried to overthrow capitalist governments, separatists want to break away from countries where they are a minority and religious groups want to establish governments that are based on their religious law. Terrorist groups and its members don't see themselves as terrorists. They see themselves as freedom fighters and patriots.



September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the New York World Trade Center

Their acts are organized in a way to attract maximum attention and to pressure governments to do or not do something. Most of the time, terrorist organizations are small groups who fight against governments that are more established and better-armed. However, it is very difficult for countries to defend themselves against terrorism. These organizations are usually very secretive and don't have any clear target that governments can fight against.

In recent times, terrorism has had a massive impact on society. It is considered to be one of the greatest threats to world peace and security. In order to respond to terrorist attacks, governments may reduce civil liberties to catch terrorists. This also happened after the 9/11 attacks in 2001. The American government allowed security agencies to monitor phone calls, emails and other kinds of communication.

# Types of Terrorism

When you hear the word terrorism, most people immediately think of ISIS or other Islamic extremists. In fact, there are many other kinds of terrorism. Different types of terrorism require different measures to deal with them.

## State Terrorism

State Terrorism is the use of terror by a government to keep its population under control. This kind of terrorism is the original form. It already happened during the French Revolution in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The government executed people in order to intimidate its people. Nonetheless, rulers have possibly used this kind of terrorism for centuries to control their people.

## Religious Terrorism

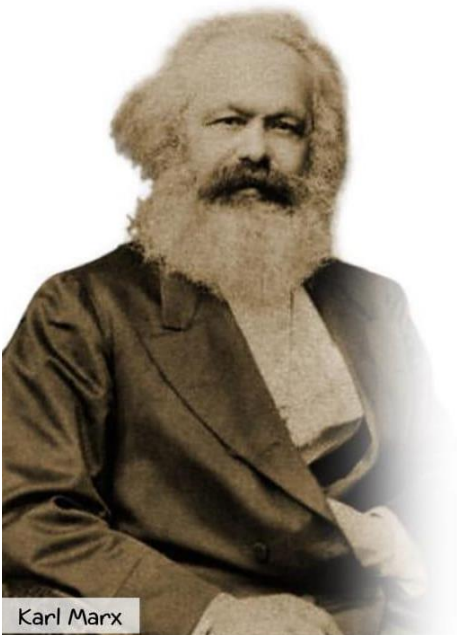
Terrorist acts that are motivated by religious beliefs is called religious terrorism. It is a very dangerous kind of terrorism because of the extreme fanaticism of these terrorists. Many of these kind of terrorists are willing to sacrifice their own lives for their cause. ISIS, Al Qaeda and Hezbollah are some examples of religious terrorist groups.



Al Qaeda terrorist

## Right Wing Terrorism

Right Wing terrorist groups aim to fight liberal government and restore traditional social orders. This kind of terrorism is often characterized by militias and gangs. In many cases, this type of terrorism is motivated by their hate for ethnic minorities. Some examples of this kind of right wing terrorist organizations include Neo-Fascists and the Ku Klux Klan.



Karl Marx

## Left Wing Terrorism

Left Wing Terrorism aims to overthrow capitalist governments and replace them with socialist or communist societies. These kind of groups are often influenced by Marxist and other communist thoughts (Karl Marx is the founder of communism). Left wing extremists want to attack the established system and get rid of class distinction. The FARC from Colombia is a famous left wing terrorist group.

## Separatist Terrorism

Separatist Terrorism is a form of terrorism that is motivated by nationalism. Their goal is to separate from a nation and form an independent country. These kind of groups are often minorities with different ethnic or religious backgrounds. They feel that their rights as a group are oppressed. ETA, PKK and the Tamil Tigers are examples of separatist organizations.



**Exercise 1:** Are the following statements true or false?

- 1) Terrorists use fear and violence to scare people. ( )
- 2) There are different kinds of terrorist groups with different aims. ( )
- 3) Terrorist groups aim to kill and intimidate minority groups. ( )
- 4) Terrorists groups have larger groups and better weapons than governments. ( )
- 5) In some situations, governments reduce the freedom of its people in order to catch terrorists. ( )
- 6) Some terrorist groups fight governments because they want to separate from a country. ( )
- 7) Terrorists use violence in order to get what they want. ( )
- 8) Terrorists don't see themselves as terrorists because they believe that they are fighting for a good cause. ( )



**Exercise 3:** Choose the best answers for the questions below.

- 1) State terrorism is a kind of terrorism where terrorists want to overthrow a government.  
a. true                                      b. false
- 2) Which kind of terrorism is characterized by extreme fanaticism?  
a. state terrorism                      b. religious terrorism  
c. right wing terrorism              d. separatist terrorism
- 3) Which kind of terrorism occurred during the French Revolution in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century?  
a. state terrorism                      b. left wing terrorism  
c. right wing terrorism              d. separatist terrorism
- 4) What kind of terrorist group is Al Qaeda?  
a. state terrorism                      b. religious terrorism  
c. right wing terrorism              d. separatist terrorism
- 5) Which of the following types of terrorist groups want to form their own country?  
a. state terrorism                      b. religious terrorism  
c. right wing terrorism              d. separatist terrorism
- 6) What kind of terrorism did Karl Marx influence?  
a. state terrorism                      b. religious terrorism  
c. right wing terrorism              d. none of the above
- 7) Which kind of terrorism is usually carried out by ethnic minorities?  
a. state terrorism                      b. religious terrorism  
c. separatist terrorism              d. left wing terrorism