Terrorism Defined

22 U.S.C. 2656f(d)

The term "terrorism" means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.
The term "international terrorism" means terrorism involving citizens or the territory of more than one country.

David Fromkin, "The Strategy of Terrorism", *Foreign Affairs*, July 1975

Terrorism is violence used in order to create fear; but it is aimed at creating fear in order that the fear, in turn, will lead somebody else—not the terrorist—to embark on some quite different program of action that will accomplish whatever it is that the terrorist really desires.

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Brian Jenkins, W.H. advisor, from "Introduction to International Terrorism", 1987, as found in <u>Global Terrorism: the Complete Reference Guide</u>, 2001, (*emphasis mine)

- *All terrorist acts are crimes…all involve violence or the threat of violence, often coupled with specific demands. The targets are mainly civilians. The motives are political. The actions generally are designed to achieve maximum publicity. The perpetrators are usually members of an organized group, and unlike other criminals, they often claim credit for the act. (This is the true hallmark of terrorism.) And, finally, it is intrinsic to a terrorist act that it is usually intended to produce psychological effects far beyond the immediate physical damage. <u>One person's terrorist is everyone's terrorist.</u>**

Terrorism Defined

- *"One person's terrorist is everyone's terrorist."*

- This is because there is something inherently evil in the act itself, akin to the act of murder and rape; acts that are considered to be *malum in se:*

  - **Malum in se**
    (mal-uhm in say) adv. Latin referring to an act that is "wrong in itself," in its very nature being illegal because it violates the natural, moral or public principles of a civilized society. http://dictionary.law.com

- Which ties in with a partial definition by Barry Smith:

  x is a terrorist implies x holds views which the person describing him as a terrorist thinks are bad/immoral/evil

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Georg Meggle, "Terror & Counter-Terror, Initial Ethical Reflections"

Methodology: Define "T-acts", Terrorists as those who commit T-acts.

D1 T-acts are acts in which purposes are (attempted to be) brought about by means of terror. (p.4)

D2 T-acts are acts in which purposes are (attempted to be) brought about by means of terror induced by violence. (p.4)

D3 T-acts are acts in which purposes are (attempted to be) brought about by means of terror induced by violence committed against indiscriminate innocents.*

*With the caveat:

• "Or can acts count as T-acts if they only affect "non-innocent victims"…the leaders of the oppressive regime itself?...Whether this focus…is necessarily part of T-acts is something I shall leave aside." (p.6)

*And the claim:

• **"The worst acts are of this [D3] type**. This is a fact—and simultaneously a tangible value judgment." (p.6, bold as Meggle's)

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My Three-Fold Definition:

- A Terrorist is a member of a group lacking in rightful authority who intentionally commits acts of violence against the citizens of a legitimate state to use the publicity and fear generated by these acts merely as a means to alter public policy.

- Terrorist acts are intrinsically evil, (malum in se), acts that by their very nature violate "the natural, moral or public principles of a civilized society." (dictionary.law.com)

- It is the nature of Terrorism and Terrorist Acts which automatically defines Terrorists as agents of evil, leaving them with no "justification" for their actions.