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Homeland Security Theoretical Review By, Maxwell Hoagland

This theoretical review aims to examine how Social Identity Theory, Radicalization Theory, and Cumulative Strain Theory help explain why terrorism is prevalent. The research uses terrorism definitions, academic studies, and theories to show how extremists influence violent behavior. Together, these perspectives provide a better understanding of how terrorism develops and impacts individuals to adapt to an extremist lifestyle.

Terrorism continues to be one of the most unpredictable and complex threats to the United States to this day. Explaining why individuals or groups resort to violent acts requires exploration of social, psychological, and environmental factors that create this extremist behavior. This paper aims to explain terrorism through theoretical perspectives as well as multiple definitions of terrorism coming from government and research institutions. Showing how terrorism is represented and interpreted through different U.S. agencies.

This paper will also explore three major theories which include Social Identity Theory, Radicalization, and Cumulative Strain Theory. These three theories can be applied to the context of terrorism to show how group identity, social influence, and life strains are connected with extremist behavior. The goal of this theoretical review is to demonstrate how multiple frameworks can help individuals better understand acts of terrorism by analyzing the causes behind it.

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