

divided countries worldwide into four income groups according their per-capita income: low, lower middle, upper middle, and high.¹² For the size of the group, we used data from the RAND-MIPT Terrorism Incident database to divide groups into sizes based on the number of core members: fewer than 100; 100–999; 1,000–9,999; and 10,000 or more.

The third step was to assess the data. We took two approaches: (1) We assessed the primary reason for the group ending, and (2) we conducted a statistical analysis to assess the impact of economic conditions, regime type, size, ideology, and group goals.

The other methodological approach involved a comparative case-study approach to understand how specific terrorist groups ended.¹³ Case studies offer a useful approach to help understand how and why groups ended.¹⁴ What were the key factors? How did they cause the end of the group? This is virtually impossible to do without examining specific cases. As Alexander George and Timothy McKeown wrote, case studies are useful in uncovering

what stimuli the actors attend to; the decision process that makes use of these stimuli to arrive at decisions; the actual behavior that then occurs; the effect of various institutional arrangements on

¹² On the World Bank codings, see World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2007*, Washington, D.C., 2007, p. xxi.

¹³ In particular, see Alexander L. George, "Case Studies and Theory Development: The Method of Structured, Focused Comparison," in Paul Gordon Lauren, ed., *Diplomacy: New Approaches in History, Theory, and Policy*, New York: Free Press, 1979, pp. 43–68.

¹⁴ On the costs and benefits of comparative case studies, see David Collier, "New Perspectives on the Comparative Method," in Dankwart A. Rustow and Kenneth Paul Erickson, eds., *Comparative Political Dynamics: Global Research Perspectives*, New York: Harper-Collins, 1991, pp. 7–31; Charles C. Ragin, "Comparative Sociology and the Comparative Method," *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, Vol. 22, Nos. 1–2, March–June 1981, pp. 102–120; Charles Tilly, "Means and Ends of Comparison in Macrosociology," in Fredrik Engelstad, ed., *Comparative Social Research*, Vol. 16: *Methodological Issues in Comparative Social Science*, London: JAI, 1997, pp. 43–53; Theda Skocpol and Margaret Somers, "The Uses of Comparative History in Macrosocial Inquiry," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol. 22, No. 2, April 1980, pp. 174–197; and Stephen Van Evera, *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*, Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1997, pp. 49–88.