

ficient to achieve success.<sup>18</sup> In other cases, a group may play little or no role in causing change, but the change they seek happens anyway. For instance, a number of terrorist groups that advocated the creation of an independent Armenian state, such as the Armenian Resistance Group, disbanded after the collapse of the Soviet Union. While they played no role in the collapse of the Soviet Union, one of their major objectives (independence for Armenia) was, in fact, achieved.

### Explanatory Variables

We also looked at five factors that can influence how long terrorist groups last and how they end: ideological motivation, economic conditions, regime type, the size of groups, and the breadth of terrorist goals. Governments cannot control most of these factors.

A group's *ideological motivation* may influence how the group ends and after how many years. Groups can be divided into at least four types: left-wing, right-wing, nationalist, or religious.<sup>19</sup> Left-wing includes a range of Marxist-Leninist, environmental, animal rights, anarchical, and antiglobalization groups. Right-wing includes racist and fascist groups. Nationalist includes groups inspired by a desire for independence, territorial control, or autonomy because of ethnic or other affiliations. Religious terrorists commit acts of terrorism to comply with a religious mandate or to force others to follow that mandate.

Some studies have suggested that terrorist groups motivated by nationalist and religious goals last the longest.<sup>20</sup> They typically have strong sources of support among the local population of the same ethnicity, and "broader popular support is usually the key to the greater average longevity of ethno-nationalist/separatist groups in the modern era."<sup>21</sup> As another study concluded,

The nature of the grievances matters. Ethnically based terrorist campaigns can be harder to end decisively than politically based

<sup>18</sup> Crenshaw (1996, p. 260).

<sup>19</sup> Cronin (2002–2003, pp. 39–42).

<sup>20</sup> Cronin (2002–2003; 2006, p. 13); USIP (1999).

<sup>21</sup> Cronin (2002–2003, p. 40).