

via victory, via defeat by policing or military forces, or through politics or splintering. As noted, the primary finding of this analysis is that policing and politics were far more likely to bring terrorist groups to an end than was military force or victory. As Figure 2.4 highlights, of the 648 groups we examined, 244 are alive and 136 splintered (thereby ending the group but not ending the terrorism), leaving 268 that came to an end in ways that eliminated their contribution to terrorism.

Of the 268 complete endings, the major share came from politics (43 percent) and policing (40 percent), with victory (10 percent) and military force (7 percent) far more the exception rather than the rule. Digging behind these numbers suggests, however, that terrorist groups differ in complex and revealing ways: (1) Religious terrorist groups are different from those otherwise classified, (2) terrorist groups in high-income countries are different from those in less-developed countries, and (3) large terrorist groups are different from small terrorist groups. In

Figure 2.4
Breakdown of the 648 Groups

