

Japanese Red Army

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Group 2



Purpose and Introduction to Organization

- Introduction/Purpose
 - A terrorist organization that was established by an extremist group
 - Based in the Middle East, fled from Japan
 - Terrorist tactics include hijacking and murder
 - Mission was to transform the country based on Marxist-Leninist Ideology and unify the world under communism
- Overview
 - Key topics discussed in presentation



Origin of the JRA

- The Japanese Red Army (also known as Sekigun) first formed in the 1960s as a group of students protesting the Japanese government, its relationship with the United States, and the Vietnam War.
- Originally, the group first started as Sekigunha (Red Army Faction), a student organization in Japan.
- In 1969, the group morphed from Political Protesters into Terrorists by:
 - Attempting to insight multiple violent uprisings named the the **Osaka, Tokyo, and Kyoto War(s)**.
 - Stockpiling weapons (poles, iron pipes, and glass bottles for Molotov cocktails).



Leadership

- Fusako Shigenobu:
 - Her nickname was the “Red Queen”
 - Operated from 1970-2000
 - Arrested in 2000 due to organizing a hostage situation at the French embassy
 - In 2006, sentenced to 20 years of prison in Tokyo
 - Released very recently, May 28th, 2022
 - Disbanded the JRA in April 2001 due differing goals

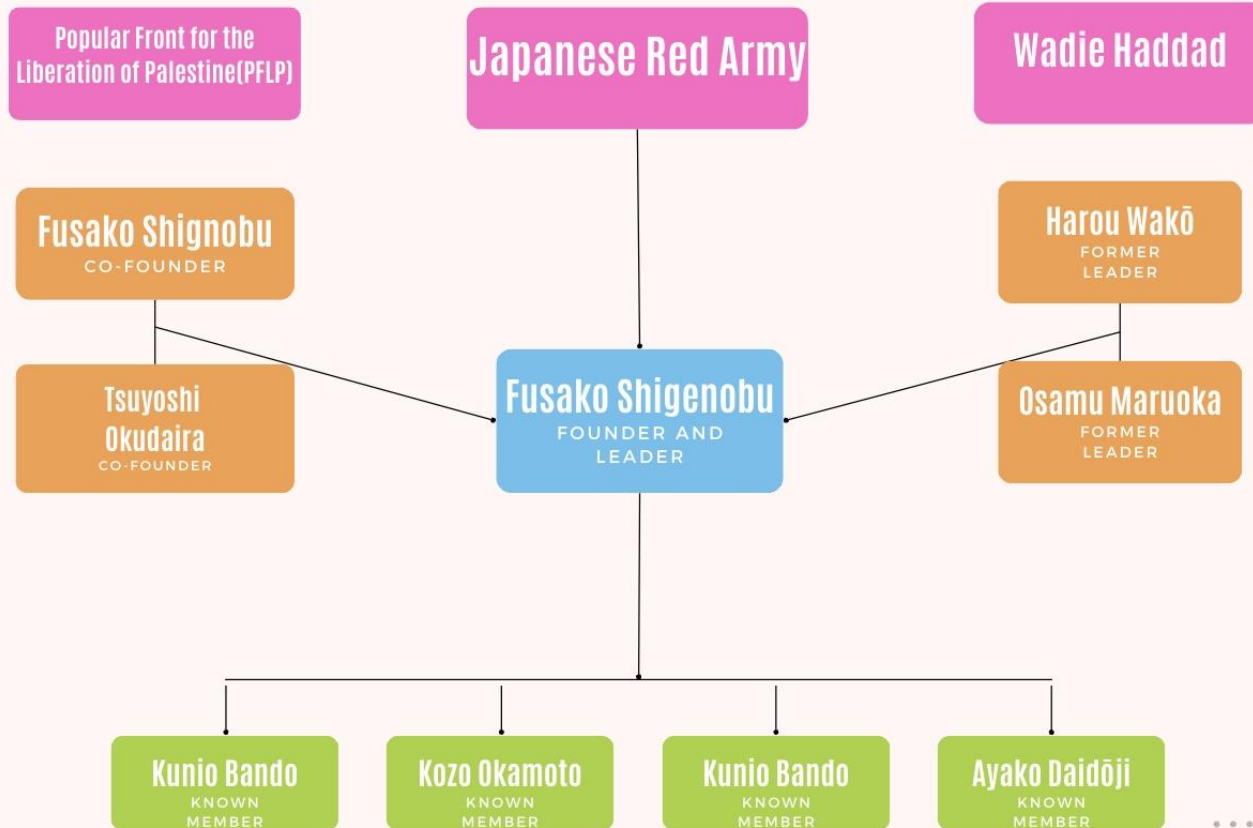


Finances

- Dependent on the PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) for finances
 - PFLP was a terrorist group based in Syria
- These two groups had close ties and formed a “strategic alliance” based on similar motives
- Documentary of the two groups produced in 1971: Red Army/PFLP Declaration of World War



JAPANESE RED ARMY SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS



Targets, Tactics, & Areas of Influence



- Targets
 - The JRA targeted almost anyone with ties to Japan, within the regions of operation, but were very limited due to the small number of members within the group and the lack of organization.
- Tactics
 - The group used tactics such as hijackings, hostage taking, and bombings to affect targets like embassies, ambassadors, and other executives.
- Areas of Influence
 - The group mainly operated out of Lebanon, but had sub-operations in Japan, Europe, South and Southeast Asia, and other Middle Eastern countries.

Historic Case In Review : Lod Airport Massacre

Date: May 30, 1972

Location: Tel Aviv, Israel



- 3 perpetrators (Kōzō Okamoto, Tsuyoshi Okudaira, and Yasuyuki Yasuda)
- The attackers carried their weapons in violin cases, and drew little attention from security who were looking for Palestinian attackers
- Fired assault rifles and threw grenades indiscriminately
- Okudaira and Yasuda died during attack
- Okamoto was captured by security

Targets/Victims:

- 17 Christian pilgrims from Puerto Rico
- 1 Canadian citizen
- 8 Israelis
- 26 people killed total; 80 injured



Okamoto



Okudaira



Yasuda

Lod Massacre Goals and Effects



Goals:

- Draw attention to JRA revolution
- Perpetrators hired by Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - External Operations (PFLP-EO)
- Funding provided by \$5 million ransom paid by West German government
- Okamoto said he had nothing against Israeli people, but he did what he had to do because:

“It was my duty as a soldier of the revolution.”

Effects:

- Okudaira and Yasuda died during attack
- Okamoto sentenced to life imprisonment in June
 - Only served 13 years and was released in exchange for Israeli soldiers
- Lod Massacre Remembrance Day
- Lod Airport now Ben Gurion Airport is one of the world's safest and most secure airports
- North Korea Trial:
 - Victim's family sued North Korean Government
 - U.S. Court ordered North Korea to pay US\$378 million to families of the attack

Conclusion

- The end of the Soviet Union impacted the end of the JRA
- Japanese Red Army relied on Soviet Union to legitimize its Marxist goals
- The further increase of police and intelligence liaison led to the arrest of many JRA members
- Increased security led to tactics that assist in the capturing of terrorist organization leaders
- Efforts used to take down the Japanese Red Army have importance when it comes to the severity of the terrorist acts they committed (the Japanese authorities are still hunting them)



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