

Envision HackOverflow

Global Terrorism Database

Evolution of Terrorism

Team Starks

Ali Riahi Samani

Dong In Kim

Pooja Prasad

Sohyun Cho

Analysis of terror attacks in terms of regional, years, and types of attacks

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1 Killings Worldwide

In the following treemap, the size of the areas corresponding to each year is proportional with the number of kills in that year in the terrorist activities. We can see that the terrorist activities peaked between 2014 to 2016. It decreased slightly in 2017, but the year had the fourth largest number of terrors. There were most killings in 2014 worldwide.

2 Killings by country

If we look now to the country split, we see that Most of the killings are concentrated in Africa, South America, and Europe.

3 Killings by countries and years

Let's look now to both countries and years together. The top 3 countries in 1970 were Switzerland, USA, Philippines, UK, West Germany. The trend changes as time goes by. If you see after mid 2010s, combining countries and years, Iraq, Afganistan, Syria, and Nigeria are the most notable. They all ranked within top five countries with the most terror activities. (Excluding Pakistan in 2015). One thing to pay attention is Iraq, which suddenly emerged to top 2 first in 2003, and then continues to be one of the countries with the most killings. We can observe that most killings in Global terrorism were in Iraq (with maximums in 2014, 2016, 2016), Afghanistan (with peaks in 2015, 2016), Pakistan, Nigeria (with an especially high death toll in 2014 and 2015).

4 killings per year and region

One can observe the large increase in the killings number for Middle East & North Africa as well as for South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, which provides the most killings in recent years. The killings showed most dramatic increased in Middle East & North Africa after 2010. By the middle of 2010s, the total killings recorded 20,000 which is 8 times more than the early 2010s.

5 attack types per year

Bombing and explosion type terrors occurred the most, followed by armed assault. It is notable that both types surged after mid 2000s

6 count of attack type

Details are in the numbers

7 count of events of attack types country

This chart demonstrates attack types per country. Bombing and explosion accounts for more than 1/3 in all countries. Hostage taking is about 10% in Yemen, Nigeria, and Somalia which are North African countries.

8 conclusion

According to analysis, various types of attacks occur in various countries and after 2000s, more specifically 2010s, the number of attacks surged and doesn't seem to get better. We need to try to prevent terror activities in various countries. According to the Enders and Sandler who studied the social effects of terror, Terrorism is the premeditated use or threat to use violence by individuals or subnational groups to obtain a political or social objective through the intimidation of a large audience beyond that of the immediate victims.

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