

GV217 - Conflict Analysis

University of Essex - Department of Government

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Week 18 – 31 January, 2020

What are we doing today?

Today's topics:

1. Trends in violence
2. Terrorism

Trends in violence

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- What is the role of the international system and power balance?
- Can “institutions” be our savior? Governments, IOs etc.
- What role will new trends in climate change, technology and alike play in the future?

Terrorism

What should a definition include?

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- Violence
- By non-state actors
- To achieve political or social goals
- Through the intimidation of a wide audience
- By targeting civilians or non-combatants

Group activity

The rest of the class will be a discussion organised in groups.

Let's divide the class in two groups. You will have a few minutes to discuss the questions in red and then discuss with the other group.

An example of a definition

Fortna (2015) Definition: Terrorists are “those who employ a systematic campaign of indiscriminate violence against public civilian targets to influence a wider audience. The ultimate aim of this type of violence is to coerce the government to make political concessions”

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Is this definition missing anything?

Example 1

On 3 February 2018 Luca Traini, an Italian white man, targeted black migrants as he drove around the city of Macerata, firing on nationals from Ghana, Mali and Nigeria. He later abandoned his car and made a fascist salute, an Italian flag draped over his shoulders, as police arrested him

The shootings came a month before national elections that were marked by furious debate over the influx of some 600,000 mainly African migrants into Italy since 2014

Traini had been an unsuccessful candidate for the anti-immigrant Northern League party and had previously been associated with neo-fascist groups.

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Is this terrorism?

Example 2

On the night of October 1, 2017, a gunman opened fire on a crowd of concertgoers at the Route 91 Harvest music festival on the Las Vegas Strip in Nevada.

Perpetrator Stephen Paddock, 64, of Mesquite, Nevada, fired more than 1,100 rounds from his suite on the 32nd floor of the nearby Mandalay Bay hotel, killing 58 people and leaving 851 injured, over 400 of them by gunfire and hundreds more in the ensuing panic.

The shooting occurred between 10:05 and 10:15 p.m. PDT; about an hour later Paddock was found dead in his room from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. His motive remains unknown.

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Example 3

24/01/2006: Assailants raided Demsare village, Adamawa state, Nigeria. This was one of six attacks on villages carried out by the same assailants.

At least 15 people were killed across all six events.

No group claimed responsibility for the incidents; however, sources attributed the attacks to Fulani militants or Boko Haram.

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Example 4

21/12/2017: Assailants attacked the Union of Thessaloniki Daily Newspaper Editors office along Stratigou Kallari Street in Thessaloniki, Central Macedonia, Greece.

There were no reported casualties in the incident.

The Minorities of Metropolitan Attacks claimed responsibility for the attack.

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Example 6

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All clear? More questions?
See you next week!