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Colorado Springs


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Homeland Security & Cybersecurity

Terrorism

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Lesson 7
Terrorism

Rick White, Ph.D.
University of Colorado, Colorado
Springs



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Challenge Your Understanding

Which of the following have been charged as terrorists?

| | | Terrorist? |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| •1722-1803 Samuel Adams | Y |  |
| •1808-1889 Jefferson Davis | N | |
| •1838-1865 John Wilkes Booth | Y | |
| •1869-1948 Mahatma Gandhi | Y | |
| •1913-1992 Menachem Begin | Y | |
| •1913-1994 Richard Nixon | N | |
| •1957-2011 Osama bin Laden | Y | |
| •1935- Dalai Lama | Y | |



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Definition

- No generally accepted definition of terrorism, however...
- Title 18, Section 2331, United States Code: **“Any violent act designed to coerce US government”**.


The Code of Laws of the United States of America (variously abbreviated to Code of Laws of the United States, United States Code, U.S. Code, U.S.C., or USC) is the official compilation and codification of the general and permanent federal statutes of the United States.

- Wikipedia

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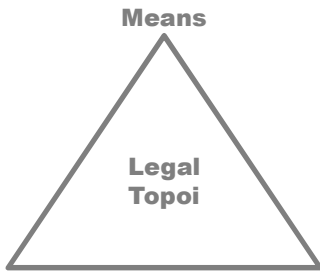
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Motive Matters

- Terrorism is a crime distinguished by motive.
- **Although an act may be a crime, absent a specific motive, it is not terrorism.**

All acts of terrorism are crimes, but not all crimes are terrorist.

Means



Legal Topoi

Opportunity **Motive**

- Demonstrate guilt by proving means, motive, & opportunity to commit crime.
- Demonstrate innocence by proving absence of any one element.

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Mass Killing

- Title 28, Section 530C, United States Code defines mass killing as “three or more killings in a single incident”.
- **Although mass killing is a crime, absent a specific motive, it is not terrorism.**

All mass killings are crimes, but not all mass killings are terrorism.



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Catastrophic Destruction

- Title 18, Section 2332a United States Code makes it illegal to fabricate, own, or deploy WMD in the US.
- **Although release of a WMD is a crime, absent a specific motive, it is not terrorism.**

All WMD deployments are a crime, but not all WMD deployments are terrorism.



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Challenge Your Understanding

How would you characterize the following incidents?

| | <i>Terrorism?</i> | <i>Mass Killing?</i> | <i>Catastrophic?</i> | Y | N |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| •1983 (241) Marine Barracks Bombing? | Y | | Y | Y | N |
| •1993 (6) World Trade Center Bombing? | Y | | Y | Y | N |
| •1995 (168) Oklahoma City Bombing? | Y | | Y | Y | Y |
| •2001 (3000) 9/11? | N | | Y | Y | N |
| •2007 (22) Virginia Tech Shooting? | N | | Y | Y | N |
| •2012 (20) Sandy Hook Elementary? | N | | Y | Y | N |
| •2016 (49) Pulse Nightclub Shooting? | N | | Y | Y | N |
| •2017 (58) Las Vegas Shooting? | N | | Y | Y | N |

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Common Element

The only common element in all these incidents is that the **perpetrators were criminals!**

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Non-State vs. State Actors

- **State Actors** are kept in check by the community of nations using instruments of power.
- **Non-State Actors** are kept in check by the rule of law.
- **Anybody who commits a crime in the US is subject to US criminal justice.**



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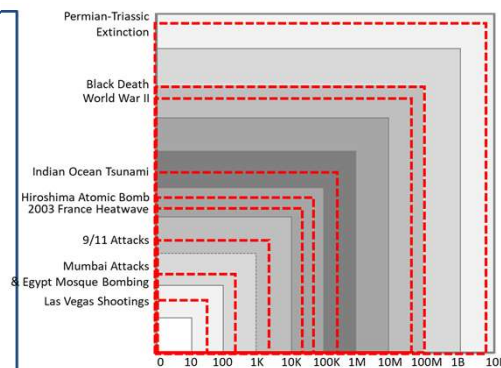
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The Terrorist Threat

Since 9/11:

- < 50 US deaths due to terrorism.
- 2,961 electrocuted by **appliances**
- 7,682 killed in **ATV** accidents
- 427,547 killed in **traffic** accidents

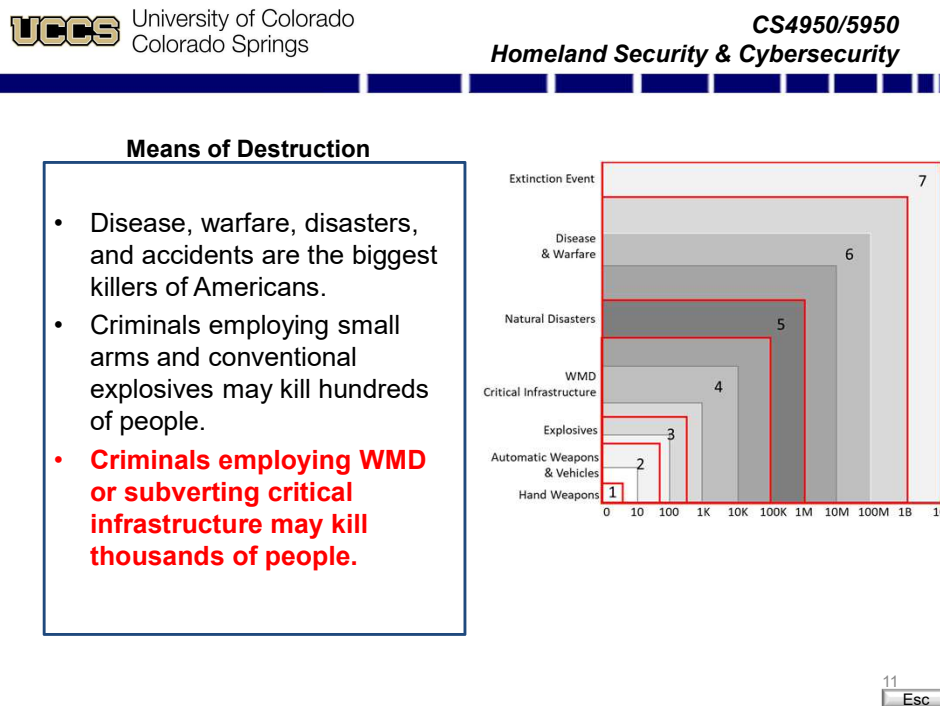
You have a greater chance of being struck by lightning than being killed by a terrorist.



Why are we more afraid of terrorists than appliances, ATVs, or automobiles?



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Killing Benchmarks

| # | Timeframe | Incident | Cause | Killings |
|----|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 1-Oct-2017 | Las Vegas Shootings | Single Assailant | 58 |
| 2 | 26-Nov-2008 | Mumbai Attacks | Multiple Assailants | 308 |
| 3 | 25 Nov 2017 | Egypt Mosque Bombing | Explosives | 305 |
| 4 | 11-Sep-2001 | 9/11 Attacks | Critical Infrastructure | 3,000 |
| 5 | August 2003 | 2003 France Heatwave | Critical Infrastructure | 14,802 |
| 6 | 6-Aug-1945 | Hiroshima Atomic Attack | Weapon of Mass Destruction | 80,000 |
| 7 | 26 Dec 2004 | Indian Ocean Tsunami | Natural Disaster | 280,000 |
| 8 | 1939-1945 | World War II | Warfare | 80,000,000 |
| 9 | 1343 | Black Death | Pandemic | 100,000,000 |
| 10 | 252 MYA | Permian-Triassic Extinction | Mega-Volcanos | 96% All Life |

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Conclusion

Questions?



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