

Executive Masters in Crisis and Emergency Management
Evolution of Terrorism
ECEM 713

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Course Description:

This course focuses on the historical roots of terrorism and stresses the importance of understanding the past to adequately prepare for the future. Through a historical perspective of terrorism, this course provides the basis for and discusses the aspects that make contemporary terrorism of today different from traditional terrorism of the past. In addition, organizational structures and favored tactics of major terrorist organizations are discussed, the history of state terrorism is explored, an emphasis on the rise and growth of religious terrorism is undertaken, the power of media coverage is addressed, and the impact of the Global War on Terrorism on the future of terrorism is debated.

Course Objectives:

- Define the major components of terrorism and reasons why we study it.
- Highlight the problem of multiple terrorism definitions and the importance of having a unified terrorism definition.
- Provide examples of the historical roots of terrorism throughout the ages
- Present the nature of terrorism in contemporary society with examples.
- Describe what aspects make contemporary terrorism different from terrorism in the past.
- Examine the characteristics of terrorist organizations, including the leadership characteristics, how support is received from around the world, typical objectives and political goals, major rationalizations and motivations, favored tactics, targeted audiences for messages, and incentives offered to recruits to join.
- Understand the role of domestic terrorism and to be able to distinguish between domestic and international terrorism.
- Examine the history of state terrorism with major examples.
- Able to compare and contrast the differences between religious and secular terrorism.
- Describe how modern terrorism is tailored to the media; how terrorists structure attacks to attract media attention; why the media covers terrorists attacks; how the coverage gives terrorists what they want; and how the coverage can shape the outcome of a terrorist incident.
- Discuss why terrorism will continue in the future and theorize future terrorism trends.

Books:

- *Terrorism in the Twenty-First Century* by Cindy C. Combs. Third Edition. Prentice-Hall. 2003.
- *A World Ignited: How Apostles of Ethnic, Religious, and Racial Hatred Torch the Globe* by Marin & Susan J. Tolchin. Rowman & Littlefield. 2006.
- *Voices of Terror* Edited by Walter Laqueur. Reed Press. 2004.

Objectives Measurement:

* **9 weekly or bi-weekly reading written assignments worth 20 points each.**

* **3 part research paper worth 40 points for each part.**

All assignments are to be sent through web campus with attachments by the due date.

You may submit it earlier if you desire but no papers will be accepted after the due date expires.

Total Points - 300 points:

270 - 300 = A

240 - 267 = B

210 - 237 = C

209 - Below = Not Passing

For this research paper, the student will address the following questions:

Part 1: Describe how the psychological, motivational and personality make-up of traditional terrorists throughout history differ from that of modern day terrorists? Explain your position.

Part 2: "The more things change - the more things remain the same." Discuss this concept through a historical evaluation of state terrorism. In addition, discuss this concept through a historical evaluation of religious terrorism.

Part 3: Professor Samuel P. Huntington has contended that "the fundamental source of conflict in this new world will not be primarily ideological or primarily economic. The great divisions among humankind and the dominating source of conflict will be cultural....Conflict between civilizations will be the latest phase of the evolution of conflict in the modern world," rather than the ideological tensions that were the source of the Cold War. Show through a historical analysis of terrorism that you agree or disagree with the thesis of Professor Huntington.

Stylistic factors to remember in writing this research paper:

- 1) Each part must be 3 - 5 typed, double-spaced pages with 1 inch margins and 12 point fonts
- 2) Notes--endnotes will be acceptable as footnotes, although other styles such as APA and MLA are acceptable as well
- 3) Be sure to include page numbers and/or web pages that you use for your sources.
- 4) Quotes, statistics, and paraphrased material should have notes
- 5) Academic journal articles are a very good source of information, such as *Terrorism and Political Violence* and *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*. See also the web links.
- 7) The use of the Internet is acceptable, but all information supporting this paper must be gathered from sound academic sources.

ECEM 713 Assignments

Week 1& 2 January 8 - 21 Introduction to Terrorism (**Assignment #1**)

- View Instructor Video #1 - Introduction to the Course.
- Read Syllabus and the 3 part research paper
 - A) Part 1 Research Paper due **Sunday March 04**
 - B) Part 2 Research Paper due **Sunday April 15**
 - C) Part 3 Research Paper due **Sunday June 10**

- Reading Assignments: 3 short essay assignments which will be due no later than **Sunday January 21**
 - *Tolchin Text - Chapter 1: Ancient Hatreds, Modern Wars*
1-2 page essay assignment: In this chapter Tolchin discusses the 5 reasons for global anti-Americanism based on the recent Pew Survey. Examine each of these reasons presenting a major argument in favor of each of these reasons; and also a major argument against each of these reasons.
 - *Laqueur Text*
Catechism of the Revolutionist, p. 71
1 page essay assignment: Why must a revolutionary be a doomed man and why must a true revolutionary be detached from family and loved ones? Discuss why you believe that these beliefs are or are not applicable to modern day terrorists.
 - ***Spirit of Revolt, p. 94***
1 page essay assignment: Why does the author feel that the concept of "action" must invariably lead to the success of the revolutionary and the demise of the government that attempts to stop his cause?

- Recommended readings from *Laqueur Text*:
 - The Terrorist Struggle, p. 76.*
 - The Case for Dynamite, p. 340.*
 - A Manifesto, p. 469.*
 - Freedom Struggle by the Provisional IRA, p. 138.*
 - The Philosophy of the Bomb, p. 140*
 - Neither Left Nor Right, p. 478.*
 - Jihad in the Cause of God, p. 394.*
 - Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders, p. 410.*

Week 3 & 4 January 22 - February 04 Definition of Terrorism and Terrorist
Personality and Motivations (**Assignment #2**)

- View Instructor Video #2 - Definition of Terrorism and the Terrorist Personality.
- Reading Assignments: 4 short essay assignments which will be due no later than **Sunday February 4.**

Topic: **Definition of Terrorism**

Combs Chapter 1: An Idea Who Time Has Come?

1-2 page essay assignment: Does it really matter whether we have a definition of terrorism or not? In the long run, what do you think will occur in the absence of a universal definition of terrorism?

Laqueur text:

Murder, p. 57

1-2 page essay assignment: In this article written in 1849 the author claims 6 conclusions pertaining to the concept of murder. Discuss whether or not these conclusions are relevant in modern society today.

Revolution, Terrorism, and Banditry, p. 68

Advise for Terrorists, p. 104.

Terrorist Motivations and Personality

Combs Chapter 4: Criminals or Crusaders?

1-2 page essay assignment: O'Ballance describes the characteristics of a successful terrorist. To what other occupations could you apply these characteristics? To what extent, do you believe Osama Bin Laden meets, or fails to meet, the criteria suggested by O'Ballance?

Tolchin Text: Chapter 4: The Psychology of Anger, Humiliation and Defeat.

1 page essay assignment: The author in this chapter makes the following statement: "Many of the worst genocidal and human rights excesses of the last century were perpetrated under the guise of creating a more perfect society". What do you feel are the reasons for this seemingly gross contradiction?

Recommended readings from *Laqueur Text*

The Disaffected, p. 171.

The Psychology of Political Violence, p. 181.

Some Qualities Required of a Partisan, p. 217.

From the "Minimanual," p. 370

Week 5 February 05 - February 11 On Campus Lecture on February 07 and 08
Review previous readings for class discussion.

Week 6 & 7 February 12 - February 25 Historical Background (**Assignment #3**)

View Instructor Video #3 - History of Terrorism

Reading Assignments: short essay assignments which will be due no later than
Sunday February 25.

History of Terrorism:

Combs Chapter 2: Not a Modern Phenomenon

1-2 page essay assignment: Combs discusses contemporary terrorism and what methods they employ. Based on this chapter, discuss why you think the bombing of Hiroshima during World War II was or was not an act of terrorism.

Tolchin Chapter 2: Anti-Semitism

1-2 page essay assignment: Tolchin discusses a recent State Department report on Global anti-Semitism which emphasizes 4 major points. Discuss what policies the United States could come up with to deal with these points or at least lessen the problem if possible.

Laqueur Text:

The Origin of Tyranny, p. 11.

1-2 page essay assignment: Aristotle discusses the factors that lead men to attack tyrants. Discuss how relevant you feel these factors are concerning modern day terrorists.

No Fellowship with Tyrants, p. 18.

Brutus, p. 19.

Thomas Aquinas and the Question of Tyrannicide, p. 27.

Whether it is Right to Destroy a Tyrant, p. 34.

On Tyranny, p. 45.

Week 8: February 26 - March 4 Complete Part 1 of Research Paper.
(Assignment #4)

Research Part 1 Written Assignment: 3-5 pages. Does the psychological, motivational and personality make-up of traditional terrorists throughout history differ from modern day terrorists? Explain your position.

This paper is due no later than Sunday March 4.

Week 9 & 11 March 03 - March 25: State Terrorism (**Assignment #5**)

View Instructor Video#5 - State Terrorism

Reading Assignments: Short essay reading assignment which will be due no later than **Sunday March 25**.

State Terrorism:

Combs Chapter 5: Terrorism by the State

1-2 page essay assignment: Combs discusses Nazi Germany, Cambodia, Argentina, and Africa. In this section she does not mention N. Korea. Why have so many leaders been able to engage in torture and brutality successfully upon their own people? What would be needed to stop this now and in the future to prohibit this cancer on human beings? What do you predict will happen in the future pertaining to state terrorism on this planet?

1 page essay assignment: Combs discusses Afghanistan under Taliban Leadership. Why do you think the world stood by and allowed it to happen and continue to subjugate many of their people? What could have been done or is it just a product of human nature?

Tolchin Chapter 5: Blood Diamonds: Economic Rights and World Anger.

1 page essay assignment: Tolchin discusses the problem of privatization. What do you feel is the real problem of privatization? What is the problem with government control of basic industries? How do both answers provide trouble that lead to world anger?

Week 10 March 12 - March 18: **SPRING BREAK**

Week 12 & 13 March 26 - April 08: Religious Terrorism (**Assignment #6**)

View Instructor Video#6 - Religious Terrorism

Reading Assignments: Short essay reading assignments which will be due no later than **Sunday April 08**.

Combs Chapter 3: Ideology and Terrorism: Rights from Wrongs?

Combs Chapter 6: Terrorism, Inc.

1-2 page essay assignment: Combs in chapter 3 discusses the 5 major components of terrorist beliefs and images. How do you think Osama Bin Laden would answer these questions?

Laqueur

Manual, p. 403.

The Letter Left Behind, p. 413.

The Covenant, p. 434.

Knights Under the Prophet's Banner, p. 426.

1 page essay assignment: In this article the author maintains that the western forces that are hostile to Islam have adopted 6 major tools to fight Islam. Discuss whether or not their is validity to these claims.

Tolchin Chapter 3: Religion and the Rise of Anger

1-2 page essay assignment: In this chapter Tolchin makes reference to Karl Marx who believed that historically, religion was the opiate of the people. Looking at the current world situation, discuss how you would support or attack this position.

Week 14 April 09 - April 15 Complete Part 2 of the Research Paper (**Assignment #7**)

Research Part 2 Written Assignment: 3-5 pages. "The more things change - the more things remain the same". Discuss this concept through a historical evaluation of state terrorism. **This paper is due no later than Sunday April 15.**

Week 15 & 16 April 16 - April 29: Terrorist Training (**Assignment #8**)

View Instructor Video#8 - Terrorist Training

Reading Assignments: Short essay reading assignments which will be due no later than **Sunday April 29**.

Combs Chapter 7 - Terrorist Training

1-2 page essay assignment: At the end of this chapter Combs discusses that terrorists today have a wide variety of tactics from which to choose. She discusses 3 major factors in determining terrorists tactics in the modern world which are potentially conflicting. Consider these factors carefully and decide what you think will be the trends in future terrorist attacks and why?

Laqueur

A Handbook for Revolutionary Bands, p. 258

The Guerrilla as the Political Vanguard, p. 365

The Three Stages of the Protracted War, p. 352

1-2 page essay assignment: Mao Tse-Tung talks about the 3 stages of the protracted war which made him successful in taking over China. How similar or dissimilar are these stages when viewing the Iraqi Insurgents in the war in Iraq?

Tolchin Chapter 6 - Sadat:From Anger to Peace

1 page assignment: In this chapter Tolchin mentions that "military historians have often observed that defeat in one war usually leads to another war, as anger from people who are conquered festers and grows from one year to the next until it explodes." Short of allowing the previous losing side to win a new war, what steps can be taken to diffuse this type of anger and can it be successful?

Week 17 & 18 April 30 - May 13: Media and Terrorism (**Assignment # 9**)

View Instructor Video#9 - Media and Terrorism

Reading Assignments: Short essay reading assignments which will be due no later than **Sunday May 13**.

Combs Chapter 8 - The Media: A Weapon for Both Sides?

1-2 page essay assignment: Combs discusses 3 hypotheses that attempt to explain the media's effect on terrorism. What are these 3 hypotheses and explain why you agree or disagree with each of these 3 theories.

1-2 page essay assignment: Discuss the major arguments pro and con concerning the implementation of censorship on the media pertaining to acts of terrorism.

Tolchin Chapter 8: Megabytes of Hate

1 - 2 page essay assignment: Tolchin discusses how hate speech is protected by the Constitution in America. Should the Constitution be changed to prohibit hate speech? Discuss your position pro or con.

Week 19 May 14 - May 20: Terrorist Organizations (**Assignment #10**)

View Instructor Video#10 - Terrorist Organizations

Reading Assignment: Short essay reading assignment which will be due no later than **Sunday May 20**.

Please go to the following web link:

[Http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/29722.pdf](http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/29722.pdf) and other web links for further information if needed. Look up and read the about the following terrorist organizations: Hamas, Hizballah, and Al Qaeda.

2-3 page essay assignment: Please compare and contrast these 3 major terrorist organizations that are currently most prevalent in the news today by answering the following questions:

1. Discuss the goals and objectives of these organizations
2. What do you believe are the short term and long term prospects for the success or failure of these organizations?
3. Which one of these do you believe is the greatest threat to the security of the United States and why?

Week 20 and 21 May21 - June 03: Future of Terrorism (**Assignment #11**)

View Instructor Video#11 - Future of Terrorism

Reading Assignment: Short essay reading assignment which will be due no later than **Sunday June 03**.

Tolchin Chapter 9 - The Politics of Hope

Laqueur

Towards Weapons of Mass Destruction, p. 519

Combs Chapter 14 - The New Terrorist Threat: Weapons of Mass Destruction.

1-2 page essay assignment: At the beginning of this chapter Combs discusses 3 reasons why there is a likelihood that terrorists will employ weapons of mass destruction. What do you think can be done to diffuse these 3 factors or is it simply hopeless? Why or why not?

Combs Chapter 15 - Future Trends

1-2 page essay assignment: How do you think our society and the world will change in the next decade due to the war on terrorism?

Week 22 June 04 - June 10: Complete Part 3 of the Research Paper (**Assignment 12**).

Research Part 3 Written Assignment: 3-5 pages. Professor Samuel P. Huntington has contended that "the fundamental source of conflict in this new world will not be primarily ideological or primarily economic. The great divisions among humankind and the dominating source of conflict will be cultural..." "Conflict between civilizations will be the latest phase of the evolution of conflict in the modern world," rather than the ideological tensions that were the source of the Cold War. Show through a historical analysis of terrorism that you agree or disagree with this thesis of Professor Huntington. **This paper is due no later than Sunday June 10.**

Week 23 June 11 - June 15: On campus lecture June 13 and June 14. Review previous readings for class discussion. In addition, please read the following articles for class discussion which is found on this web-campus website.

- Rape of Europe article
- Rape of Europe Critique article

***** This syllabus is a guide, not a contract. It may be revised if it seems in the best interest of the class to do so. Students will be notified promptly of any revisions.*

