

Terrorism- What it is and isn't

WH H Semester Research Project

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Topics

WH.H.8.1 Evaluate global wars in terms of how they challenged political and economic power structures and gave rise to new balances of power (e.g., Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, Vietnam War, Colonial Wars in Africa, Persian Gulf War, etc.). Pg. 53

WH.H.8.2 Explain how international crisis has impacted international politics (e.g., Berlin Blockade, Korean War, Hungarian Revolt, Cuban Missile Crisis, OPEC oil crisis, Iranian Revolt, “911”, terrorism, etc.). Pg. 54

What is Terrorism?

Terrorism is, in its broadest sense, the use of intentionally indiscriminate violence (terror) in order to achieve a political, religious, or ideological aim (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism>)

The FBI uses this definition: "**Terrorism** is the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives." (<http://www.terrorism-research.com/>)

The use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims.

(<https://www.google.com/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8&safe=active&ssui=on#q=what%20is%20terrorism&safe=active&ssui=on>)

Using the three Definitions stated before, These are some of the Events that impacted the world that can be considered, “terrorism”.

9/11



On September 11th of 2001, 19 participants of the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda co-ordinated 4 successful attacks on the US and successfully crashed 2 into the Twin Towers in New York City. Hijacking 2 planes, American Airlines flight 11, and United Airlines flight 175, al-Qaeda suicide-bombed the twin towers, 2 110 story buildings and killed everyone in the planes as well as a great deal of people inside the buildings. They also crashed another into the pentagon, The USA's headquarters for defensive tactics, crashing American Airlines Flight 77 into it. One of the most notorious tragedies known to the USA, this event caused a push in airport security, and oddly brought AMerica together instead of splitting apart, which is astonishing as this event killed nearly 3,000 people and brought the USA in nearly 3 trillion dollars in debt.

Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki



Oddly enough, this event isn't really reflected on as an act of terrorism, but more of a necessary step to end the conflict between the US and allies, and Japan. However, this is nonetheless terrorism, and a very strong example of it.

The UNited States, along with the Mutual agreement of The United kingdom, Decided to drop NUclear Bombs on Japan, a rival that refused to halt near the end of WW2. On August 6th, 1945, they went through with this plan, dropping the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. 3 days later, they dropped the second one on Nagasaki, and these two bombs and the aftermath are said to have killed up to 250,000 people.

Bombing of the US Embassies

The 1998 bombings of the US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, were attacks that happened before 9/11 but still aimed at the United States.

Not able to attack US soil yet, they settled for US property on foreign land. Using trucks full of explosives, they detonated them on both buildings.

What isn't considered "Terrorism"?

Wars/Battles

Both wars and battles both contain a mutual understanding between two parties. While both can still be tense, And have no mutual bond whatsoever, A series of battles that take place in a War are usually co-ordinated and both sides are at least partially aware.

The definition of Terrorism does not fit this category.

