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# TERRORISM: STATES AND TERROR

## CAN STATES BE TERRORISTS?

States and terror do not need to be the classical case of governments giving guns and money to third parties, sometimes the armed forces of a state themselves are the perpetrators of terrorism as a strategy (deliberate policy). For example:

- The US government and the Native Americans – deliberate legislated policy of Indian removal and use of force and atrocities.
- WWII – German government had very deliberate policies for people they were trying to suppress.

## Types of State Terrorism

### *Internal*

Policy of terrorizing an internal enemy into surrender. Saddam's campaign against the Kurds in Iraq is an example of that. The idea of destabilizing a group out of resistance.

### *External (direct, through organisations)*

What we most commonly think of when we think 'state terrorism.' The direct funding of particular groups somewhere else who then focus their attention on a target.

### *Support/Sponsorship (indirect, ideological, political and private)*

Broader and indirect support and sponsorship, including supporting the cause of a terrorist group at a diplomatic level, recognizing them as an alternative government of a country (not giving them money, but recognizing and supporting their cause).

## Perfect Match

What Terrorists want	What States want
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bases – places to act from</li><li>• Training</li><li>• Finance</li><li>• Weapons</li><li>• Intel &amp; logistic support</li><li>• Recruits – populations to draw members from</li><li>• Asylum – you can run over the border without being caught</li><li>• Political and Diplomatic support</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strike at common enemies – the enemies of the state and the terrorist</li><li>• Extending influence – by using proxy's</li><li>• Spread ideology</li><li>• Deniability – 'it isn't us that attacked them, the militants did it'</li><li>• Avoid retaliation</li><li>• Divert interior radicals – you get rid of your own radicals off your hands and they fight elsewhere</li><li>• Value for \$\$ - a small investment in a terrorist group can go a long way</li></ul>

### Conventional Warfare

Conventional warfare – states with armies, navies and air forces. All up, this balance sheet is not a positive one, if you are a weak nation declaring war on someone is very risky.

Financial Cost	High	Most of the costs are high with conventional warfare, it is costly to build and maintain resources. Most of the resources you buy you don't use. It's all about having resources on the board.
Financial Yield	?	It is uncertain, if you use your army to attack an enemy state will it make you a profit? Probably not – unless you are able to capture their oil fields or diamond mines.
Financial Risk	High	Very high, it is expensive and can result in damage to your own economic systems.
Political Cost	High	The international community doesn't like states going to war with one another. Can be unpopular domestically and to your allies.
Political Yield	Low	You won't get much political support and sanctions can be placed on you.
Political Risk	High	It can see you being ostracized and removed from power.

### Terrorism

Financial Cost	Low	It can be almost nothing, a couple of guns, airline tickets etc. The costs are nothing compared to building tanks and submarines.
Financial Yield	?	Still questionable, you probably won't make much money.
Financial Risk	Low	Even when you get caught it is unlikely to cause major economic damage (unless you are getting caught often and sanctions get imposed).
Political Cost	Low	Lower risk than conventional warfare.
Political Yield	High	Terrorism can exert a lot of pressure on your enemies, it can win a lot of admirers at home and abroad. Don't discount the domestic yield – you want to be popular in your own state.
Political Risk	Low	Relatively low, you may get bad vibes but it is unlikely to hurt you too much unless you are seen as extreme and a state sponsor of terror.



## STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST

You can be taken off the official list (often used as a bargaining chip. In order to designate a state of state-terrorism, the Secretary of State has to determine that the government of the State has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism.

Once you're on this list you can't get aid from the US, the US will oppose loans from the World Bank, you have a 'no dealing' sanctions placed on you, these countries have no diplomatic immunity (private citizens in America can sue government officials in these countries for any loss).

Unofficial list – have been accused at some point in time in supporting militant countries, but are not on America's list. This could be because they are partial allies to the US. If you're not allowed to do any business with Saudi Arabia it would have a very negative impact on the world oil market.

Yemen has previously been on the official list, but they have been taken off because the Yemen government have been a partner on the War on Terror by allowing American drones etc. to operate above them.

This is primarily a political tool (look at North Korea – if they start to agree on the nuclear deals then it is likely that they will be taken off/it will be a trade on the table).

Official	Unofficial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Iran</li><li>• Sudan</li><li>• Syria</li><li>• North Korea (just got put back on due to their link of supplying weapons to the Middle Eastern revolutionary groups.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yemen</li><li>• Saudi Arabia</li><li>• Qatar</li><li>• Gulf States</li><li>• Israel?</li></ul>

### Iran

Once the Iranian revolution occurred in 1979, exporting their brand of Islamic Revolution was an official policy for the Iranian government. That primarily meant supporting their Shi'ite populations around the region. Iran felt that Shi'ite people were being oppressed by Sunni leadership.

Sunni nations such as Saudi Arabia fear the influence of Iran because of the decades of support for the 'Shia Crescent'. The idea that Iran as a Sunni country is now extending their influence.

- Support for Islamic revolution abroad
- Oppose USA, Israel and 'un-Islamic' rulers
- Provided training, weapons, finance, support, safety
- Hezbollah – allowed them to use safe bases for training in Iran, were very generous with support and resources
- Anti-IS militias in Syria and Iraq
- Assad government
- Hamas (sometimes) – they were supportive, but not to the extent they were with Hezbollah
- Shi'ite radicals in Bahrain
- Houthis in Yemen – been supportive of

### Iran was implicated in many attracts listed below:

- 1983 Beirut barracks
- TWA 847 – hijack
- Jewish community center in Argentina – a bombing attack
- Khobar Towers – bombing of an American housing complex in Saudi Arabia
- 2006 Lebanon
- Syrian Civil War
- Yemen Civil War