Course Learning Outcomes for Unit IV

Upon completion of this unit, students should be able to:

6. Assess and analyze the numerous global terrorist groups operating around the world.
   6.1 Describe the history of terrorism in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
   6.2 Describe the growing presence of Islamic extremist groups in Great Britain.
   6.3 Discuss the evolution of Terrorism Acts in Great Britain.
   6.4 Identify significant terrorist events in Western European countries.

8. Conclude the end result of terrorism and how it affects global change, political thinking and strategy.
   8.1 Discuss perceptions of U.S. citizens towards domestic and international terrorist groups.

Reading Assignment

Chapter 5: Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Chapter 6: Western Europe

Reading Assignment

Chapter 5: Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Chapter 6: Western Europe

In order to access the resource below, you must first log into the myCSU Student Portal and access the Academic Search Complete database within the CSU Online Library.


Unit Lesson

Beginning with this unit, and continuing through the next three units of study, this course will look at the history of and modern-day problems associated with terrorism in other parts of the world. As part of each of these units, an examination of ancillary issues related to terrorism within the United States will also be covered.

Unit IV begins this global review by examining the history of terrorism and current state of affairs in American ally countries located in Western Europe. Chapter 5 of your textbook provides an overview of the issue in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, while Chapter 6 focuses on the rest of Western Europe.

The history of conflict between Northern Ireland and Great Britain dates back several centuries, but it was in the early 1900s that the roots of terrorism began to emerge as a form of warfare in this region. In an attempt to subvert and destroy the Irish government, the British government established a military force called the Black and Tans, who were known for their brutal means of containing the Irish insurgency. The problems once again escalated beginning in the late 1960s when the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which was initially considered nothing more than a nuisance, gradually escalated its use of terrorist tactics in rebellion against Great Britain. The IRA, considered one of the most successful and well-organized terrorist organizations in modern times, formally renounced violence in 2005.

While the cessation of violence by the IRA ended terrorism activities between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, it did not end the threat of terrorism in the region. Islamic extremist groups have used this region of the world over the past several decades as a base for raising funds and, in some cases, relocating to escape the repressive regimes of their home countries. Additionally, Great Britain has been the target of several
terrorist attacks since the attacks that occurred in the U.S. on September 11, 2001. In an effort to combat the growing threats within the region, Great Britain has enacted its own series of Terrorism Acts, similar in many respects to the USA Patriot Act.

Other regions of Western Europe share a long history of terrorism. A variety of terrorist organizations have orchestrated attacks across the European nations since the early 1970s. Some of the more infamous terrorist events to occur in this region of the world include: (1) 1971 Munich, Germany, where 11 Israeli athletes were massacred by Palestinians at the Olympic Games; (2) 2004 Madrid, Spain, where 191 people were killed by al Qaeda train bombings; (3) 1974 The Hague, Netherlands, where the French Embassy was taken over by members of the Japanese Red Army; and (4) 1976, when an Air France airliner was hijacked.

Turning attention back to the United States, the public perceptions of terrorist organizations changed dramatically with the attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001. Prior to the 9/11 attacks, most Americans viewed terrorism as a problem endured by foreign countries. Terrorist activities had been committed by domestic organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan, Black Panthers, and a variety of other extremist groups within the United States over the past century, with only sporadic attention paid to the attacks carried out by these groups. However, the 9/11 attacks changed the views of most citizens regarding the actual possibilities of terrorist threats within the U.S.

**Key Terms**

1. Black and Tans
2. Domestic terrorism
3. Great Britain Terrorism Acts
4. International terrorism
5. Irish Republican Army (IRA)
6. Islamic extremist groups