Course Learning Outcomes for Unit V

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

1. Analyze the origins and growth of the terrorist organizations known as Hezbollah and Hamas.
2. Analyze the origins and growth of the Fatah and the Palestinian Liberation Organization.
3. Evaluate various terrorist groups not originating from the Middle East, including FARC, ELN, MEK, Maoist, and Naxalite terrorist groups.
4. Define revolutionary and counter revolutionary terrorism.
5. Outline the influence, history, and philosophy of the Tupamaros.

Reading Assignment

Chapter 9: Terrorism in Israel and Palestine
Chapter 10: Revolutionary and Counter Revolutionary Terrorism

Unit Lesson

Chapter 9: Terrorism in Israel and Palestine

In 1964, there was a revolutionary group that included many nationalistic and leftists called the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) that was founded and led by Yasser Arafat. He embraced terrorists in revolutionary war in Cuban training camps and promised to join in the fight within the international realm as well. The PLO was considered a secular organization attempting to establish a government for displaced Palestinians. Arafat’s goal was to have the PLO established as a political organization to form an alliance against Israel (White, 2014).

In addition to the PLO, five years prior in 1959, Arafat founded a guerrilla organization called Fatah to declare war against Israel. The Fatah caused minor disruptions and annoyances to Israel, but they did not pose any real threat. Arafat decided to merge Fatah into the PLO in 1964. Some of the original homicide bombers (also known as suicide bombers) were under Arafat’s regime. They were called “Fedayeen” or warriors who sacrifice themselves for the secular cause (White, 2014).

The attacks from Palestinian military bases in Jordan increased protests in Israel, and it was demanded that King Hussein from Jordan put forth the efforts to stop Fatah. After Palestinian terrorists hijacked and destroyed three airplanes in Jordan, King Hussein had enough, and his army eventually defeated PLO and Fatah. Arafat then fled to Lebanon (White, 2014).

Arafat was frustrated with King Hussein and wanted revenge, so he formed yet another group called Black September using German leftists. This was the same group that took the world by surprise when terrorists took hostages and killed innocent people during the 1972 Olympic Games (White, 2014).

Since Arafat had fled to Lebanon, he became a prominent force where an epidemic of terrorists and militia groups were slipping across the border to Israel and striking them repeatedly. It was in 1982 when Israel had enough, and a coordinated attack against these terrorist groups took charge. In August 1982, Arafat fled Beirut and went to Tripoli taking thousands of Fedayeen warriors (White, 2014).

Another prominent terrorist group that has gained national and international headlines is that of Hezbollah. It was founded through the Iranian Revolution and keeps close ties with Iran. It has roots to the Shi’ite
community in southern Lebanon. According to the textbook “A former deputy secretary of state referred to Hezbollah as the deadliest terrorist group in the world and some officials’ link it to al Qaeda” (White, 2014, p. 222). There are other terrorist experts who say that Hezbollah’s peak of violence transpired in the mid-1980s and that al Qaeda does not associate with this group. The group’s violence seems to historically transcend in Lebanon and Israel (White, 2014).

The Hamas terrorist group, founded in December 1987, has connections and ties to Ahmed Yassin who was raised in Gaza and gained influence under the Muslim Brotherhood. His belief was that the only path to restore Palestine was through Islam. Yassin was displeased with the secular approach of PLO and wanted to pursue the religious aspects. There were many highly educated university graduates that joined Hamas. He believed no peace talks would be established with Israel, and they should cease to exist (White, 2014).

Chapter 10: Revolutionary and Counter Revolutionary Terrorism

As we have learned throughout the textbook chapters, one might come to the conclusion that a revolutionary war would be an act of terrorism, and although this has been the case in some international areas, if you look at the American Revolutionary War, this is not the case. If this were true, Americans would have been indiscriminately murdering British citizens and destroying symbolic targets (White, 2014).

When looking at revolutionary terrorism, it can be defined as militia and/or insurgency strategy to overthrow a government to inflict political and social change and to inflict destructive psychological impact on an established government power. We have witnessed this type of terrorism on a domestic and international platform. Some examples of revolutionary terrorism include Maoist, Marxist movements, left-wing, and right-wing groups (White, 2014).

During the early 1960s, a revolutionary terrorist group called the National Liberation Movement started to grow in popularity in South America, specifically in the region of Uruguay, but later changed its name to Tupamaros in support of a heroic fighter who was killed in battle against the Spaniards 200 years ago. Their fight stemmed from the economic woes in Uruguay and militia groups fighting against the government. By the mid-1960s, Tupamaros grew to approximately 50 followers, and they continually worked on recruiting sympathizers within the city. Their tactics deviated from the traditional guerrilla warfare, and they took their battle to the city itself. They focused on establishing financial support and obtaining weapons. As the Tupamaros continued to grow, their tactics expanded to kidnapping high-ranking officials from the Uruguay government and foreign diplomats. The extreme violence of the Tupamaros started to alienate their supporters, which ultimately led to their demise. Interestingly enough, the Tupamaros were a model of urban terrorism that many groups in the United States and western Europe followed (White, 2014).

Other terrorist groups emerged from South America, primarily being spawned from the illegal drug trade in Colombia. The oldest and largest terrorist group in Colombia is the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). It was formed through the military wing of the Colombian Communist Party in 1964. The FARC operates against the Colombian government, but their violence has spanned to surrounding countries as well. They found financing through the illegal drug trade and would attack the Colombian military. In 1999, the United States stepped in to help reduce the violence and drug trade under an operation titled “Plan Colombia.” The U.S. focused on addressing FARC and other known terrorist groups in the area, such as the National Liberation Army (ELN) and United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) (White, 2014).

Spanning across the Atlantic Ocean, another terrorist group that emerged in 1997 out of Iran was the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MeK). They settled in the camp 40 miles north of Baghdad. After the U.S. military negotiated a peace settlement with the MeK, they soon learned that their members would not conform. The MeK has a history of attacks dating back to the mid-1970s to include attacks on the Iranian military, assassinations, bombings, and attacks on foreign countries. The MeK held a rally in Paris in 2008 to include several Western politicians where they have been trying to denounce their terrorist status (White, 2014).

Continuing east, we come to the Maoist terrorism guerrilla group that is based in Malaysia, Vietnam. They are considered a form of revolutionary terrorism. The group has a tendency to be more violent than some of the other revolutionary groups. They have three distinct differences from the majority of the revolutionary terrorism domain that include (1) an approach of ruthless domination in the areas they control, (2) a reputation for strict discipline, and (3) the revolutionary style of philosophy of the Chinese communist leader, Mao.
Zedong. The Maoists eventually signed a peace agreement in 2006 with the government, have since turned over their weapons, and rejoined the country and government lead in February 2012.

Heading back toward the west, we land in the country of India where they have encountered a litany of terrorist problems from ethnic disagreements, political strife, and religious challenges. The Naxalites started to emerge in the late 1960s in West Bengal. There was strong a disagreement where peasants demanded fair wages and the right to own land in the region. They were supported by the communist party. When the police responded with excessive and deadly force, a rebellion group emerged. As the group was established, it formed the “Red Corridor,” which is an area of Naxalite violence and a corridor that runs from Nepal through southern India. This became a strong geographical based for the power of the Naxalite. They would attack police stations, jungle ambushes, and produce a high number of police casualties. The Naxalite was considered to be a criminal problem as well as a terrorist group, and they believed that some government reform was needed in areas such as politics, land reform, and bureaucratic corruption. According to the Aspen Foundation, studies have shown the rebellion is far from being over for three reasons: India’s weak policing with a lack of personnel, attempts to reverse the public posturing, and (most importantly) the fundamental reasons as to why the Naxalites emerged have not been effectively addressed (White, 2014).

Death squads have received less attention than revolutionary terrorism, but nonetheless, they exist and have a common base to protect an established order. Their primary objective is to stop social change and terrorize anyone who threatens their position. They were primarily seen in Central and South America with a focus on right-wing activities (White, 2014).

Reference


Suggested Reading

- Click [here](#) to access the PowerPoint Presentation of the Chapter 9 Presentation.
- Click [here](#) to access the PDF of the Chapter 9 Presentation.
- Click [here](#) to access the PowerPoint Presentation of the Chapter 10 Presentation.
- Click [here](#) to access the PDF of the Chapter 10 Presentation.


