

Government 328

Countering Terrorism

MW 2:40-4:00
PAC 136

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324 PAC

This course is a critical survey of the policies that the United States and other countries have developed to combat terrorism. It begins with an assessment of American policy from the late 1960s until the attacks of 9/11. It then considers the American response to that event. This section of the course concludes in group projects that evaluate the effectiveness of the current war on terrorism. The second part of the course focuses on the policies of other countries or international organizations and will be based on student research papers and their presentations.

Some common questions we will ask of all cases: How was the threat of terrorism defined or framed by policy makers? Was policy toward terrorism integrated into overall foreign policy or grand strategy? Were goals clearly defined? Were they related logically to means or resources? What priority did it have in light of competing interests? Have governments learned over time how to deal with terrorism? How effective is the use of military force? When have governments negotiated with actors using terrorism and what was the outcome? Can nonstate actors be coerced? How likely and how productive is international cooperation?

The requirements for the course include active participation in class discussions, an essay analyzing American policy (1200 words), a group project that concludes in a position paper analyzing policy effectiveness (1500 words), and a research paper explaining the policy of a government other than the United States (2500 words). Note that the research paper will be presented to the class and that discussants will be assigned to respond to the presentation. Grading will be weighted as follows:

Class participation	20%
Essay	25%
Group project	20%
Research paper	35%

Class participation means coming to class prepared to discuss the readings and contribute questions and comments in a manner that is not only knowledgeable but engages the views of other students. (Class participation also includes serving as a discussant for a research paper presentation.) You should also be well informed about current events. The research paper grade will include the quality of the oral presentation to the class. *Class protocol requires that you arrive on time and remain in the classroom for the duration of the class. Please do not eat during class.*

Readings: Readings are available in electronic databases through the library or on reserve (electronic or hard copy). The 9/11 Commission Report can be purchased at the

book store. The “Achille Lauro” case can be purchased from the Kennedy School of Government. Students are responsible for locating readings in a timely way. Consult the librarians if you are not familiar with the library’s electronic databases. If you cannot locate an assignment you should inform me (mcrenshaw) or Ms. Janet DeMicco (jdemicco) in the department office immediately.

All papers should be turned in to the locked course box outside the government department office. Late papers will not be accepted unless a compelling reason is explained to me in advance. Another paper due on the same day is not a compelling reason. Nor is last minute computer failure.

Schedule

January 19 Introductory class

January 24 Overview of American Policy

David Tucker, Skirmishes at the Edge of Empire: The United States and International Terrorism, Chapter 1, “History.” Electronic reserve.

Paul Pillar, Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy, Chapters 2 and 4. Electronic reserve.

Further reading:

Department of State, Patterns of Global Terrorism (look at <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/>)

David A. Korn, Assassination in Khartoum.

Stansfield Turner, Terrorism and Democracy.

Robert Kumamoto, International Terrorism & American Foreign Relations, 1945-1976.

William R. Farrell, The U.S. Government Response to Terrorism: In Search of an Effective Strategy.

Jeffrey D. Simon, The Terrorist Trap.

J. Brent Wilson, “The United States’ Response to International Terrorism,” in David A. Charters, ed., The Deadly Sin of Terrorism, pp. 173-210.

Daniel L. Byman, Matthew C. Waxman, and Eric Larson, Air Power as a Coercive Instrument, Chapter Six, “Coercing Nonstate Actors: A Challenge for the Future.”

Joseph Leggold, “Hypotheses on Vulnerability: Are Terrorists and Drug Traffickers Coerceable?” in Lawrence Freedman, ed., Strategic Coercion: Concepts and Cases.

Ian O. Lesser, et al., Countering the New Terrorism.

January 26 The 1970s to the Iran Hostage Crisis

Central Intelligence Agency, “Research Study: International and Transnational Terrorism: Diagnosis and Prognosis,” April, 1976.

Gary Sick, “Taking Vows,” Chapter 12 in Walter Reich, ed., Origins of Terrorism. Electronic reserve.

See also:

David Farber, Taken Hostage: The Iran Crisis and America's First Encounter with Radical Islam.

January 31 The Reagan Years: Policy Statements

George Shultz, "Terrorism and the Modern World," Department of State Bulletin, December, 1984.

(http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1079/is_v84/ai_3536847)

Public Report of the Vice President's Task Force on Combatting Terrorism, February 1986. Available on numerous websites including mipt.org.

George Shultz, "The Struggle Against Terrorism," Department of State Bulletin, April, 1988.

(http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1079/is_n2133_v88/ai_6761419/pg_3)

February 2 The Seizure of the Achille Lauro

"The Achille Lauro Affair," Kennedy School of Government Case. (This case is available for purchase from the KSG, and it is also on reserve in hard copy.)

See also:

Marc Celmer, Terrorism, U.S. Strategy, and Reagan Policies.

February 7 Retaliation against Libya

Tim Zimmermann, "Coercive Diplomacy and Libya," in Alexander L. George and William E. Simons, ed., The Limits of Coercive Diplomacy, 2nd ed., pp. 201-228. Electronic reserve.

See further:

David C. Martin and John Walcott, Best Laid Plans.

February 9 Arms for Hostages: The Iran-Contra Affair

Hemmer, Christopher. "Historical Analogies and the Definition of Interests: The Iranian Hostage Crisis and Ronald Reagan's Policy Toward the Hostages in Lebanon." Political Psychology (1999), 20, 2, pp. 267-289. (Can be accessed through the PAIS International database.)

See also:

U.S. Congress. Report of the Congressional Committees Investigating the Iran-Contra Affair. 1987.

February 14 The Clinton Administration (and Bush presidency pre 9/11)

Daniel Benjamin and Steven Simon, The Age of Sacred Terror, Chapters 9 and 10 in Part Two, "America." Electronic reserve.

Martha Crenshaw, "Coercive Diplomacy and the Response to Terrorism," in The United States and Coercive Diplomacy, edited by Robert J. Art and Patrick M. Cronin. Selected pages. Electronic reserve.

See also:

Richard A. Clarke, Against All Enemies.

Steve Coll, Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001.

February 16 Responses to 9/11 from the Academic Community

Stephen M. Walt, "Beyond bin Laden: Reshaping U.S. Foreign Policy," International Security, 26, 3 (Winter 2001-02), pp. 56-78.

Barry R. Posen, "The Struggle against Terrorism: Grand Strategy, Strategy, and Tactics," International Security, 26, 3 (Winter 2001-02), pp. 39-55.

February 21-28 The 9/11 Commission Report, Chapters 1-11

March 2 ESSAY DUE

March 7-16 SPRING BREAK

March 21-30 The Effectiveness of the War on Terrorism

March 21 US Policy: Ends and Means

National Strategy for Combating Terrorism (February, 2003) available at cia.gov and other government websites.

See also the policy recommendations in the 9/11 Commission Report.

A few of the many other works on post 9/11 policy:

Neta C. Crawford, "Just War Theory and the U.S. Counterterror War," Perspectives on Politics 1, 1, (March 2003), pp 5-25. Electronic Journal: Cambridge Journals Online. Audrey Kurth Cronin and James M. Ludes, eds., Attacking Terrorism: Elements of a Grand Strategy.

Defeating the Jihadists: A Blueprint for Action. A Century Foundation Task Force Report, 2004. (New York)

A more secure world: Our shared responsibility. United Nations. Report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. 2004.

Stephen Flynn, America the Vulnerable: How Our Government Is Failing to Protect Us from Terrorism.

Anonymous, Imperial Hubris: Why the West is Losing the War on Terror.

March 23 Discussion: How do we measure success?

April 4 Group Projects Due

Note: Although the written report will not be due until April 4, groups should be prepared to present their preliminary findings on March 28 and 30.

April 6-May 2 Policies of Other States

Note: Students will choose a state and a time period to analyze. You can deal with past policies as well as contemporary policy. You can also focus on the EU or the UN. You should inform me of your topic choice on April 6.

Presentations of research projects:

April 13, 18, 20, 25, 27, and May 2. Paper authors should turn in to me and give to their discussants at least an outline of their presentation in advance (the degree of preparation will depend on the date of the presentation). They should also provide citations to suggested (short) readings for the entire class.

April 27 Research Papers due

Classes end May 3.

(Note: Senior theses are due April 13.)

January 19, 2005