Evaluating the Full Spectrum of Efforts by the State to Control Terrorism

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How we Typically Think of Counterterrorism
Effects might Depend on Regional Diversity

- Government Legitimacy
- Economic and Social Well-Being of Citizens—or terrorist constituency
- Political Literacy
- Religious Influences
Effects Might Depend on Terrorist Organizational Diversity

- Apocalyptic
- Single Issue
- Religious
- Nationalist
- Dependent on Constituency
- Highly Competitive with Other Organizations
- And so on...
Dealing with the Devil: START funded research with Erica Chenoweth

Considers the full range of approaches to countering terrorism from fully conciliatory to excessively repressive, with an eye toward developing a global counterterrorism database.

Only by understanding the optimal counterterrorism strategy that is best suited across a spectrum of conditions can we improve our chances of reducing global terrorism.
More Specifically

We have collected data from five Middle East countries on a wide range of government actions directed toward perpetrators of terrorism.

Algeria  Lebanon  Turkey  Egypt  Israel
Sample Actions

- Boycott supporters
- Martial law
- Deploy
- Harass
- Investigating Abuses
- Stakeouts
- Release
- Internment
- Raid
- Patrol
- Sniper
- Beating
Dimensions of Countering Terrorism

- Discriminate
- In discriminate
- Repressive
- Conciliatory

ACTOR TYPE
- Justice
- Politician
- Police
- Military
- V/NV
- Material
- Immaterial
Conciliatory-Repressive Scale

1. Accommodation
2. Conciliatory action
3. Conciliatory statement or intention
4. Neutral or ambiguous
5. Verbal conflict
6. Physical conflict
7. Extreme repression (intent to kill)
Data Collection Strategy

- Literature Search
- Textual Analysis by Augmented Replacement Instructions (TABARI)

1. Searches lead sentences of news sources based on complex dictionary that specifies subject, verb and object (actor-action-target). (international event data)
2. Filters hits into a new file and a database that captures key variables.
3. Keep action by State Actors against Sub-State Actors
Preliminary Findings for Israel - Actors

Israeli Actors

Politician: 45%
Military: 46%
Police: 5%
Judiciary: 4%
Israeli Targets

Palestinians 74.5%

Palestinian Terrorists 17.8%

Israelis 5.8%

Lebanese Terrorists 1.3%

Lebanese 0.4%

Other 0.3%
Discriminate and Indiscriminate Actions

Actions by Israel

- Discriminate: 1500
- Indiscriminate: 3000

- Conciliatory: 1000
- Repressive: 2500

Legend:
- Purple: Discriminate
- Blue: Indiscriminate
Material and Immaterial Actions

Actions by Israel

- Conciliatory
- Repressive

Material
Immaterial
## Actions Captured by TABARI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation/Full Concessions</th>
<th>Verbal Conflict</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Withdrew from town</td>
<td>Make pessimistic comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signed peace accord</td>
<td>Dismissed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handed town to Palestinians</td>
<td>Blame for attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conciliatory Action</td>
<td>Deny responsibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Met to discuss</td>
<td>Threaten military force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Released</td>
<td>Physical Conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifted curfew</td>
<td>Demolished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulled out</td>
<td>Barred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate abuse</td>
<td>Sealed off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conciliatory Statement or Intensions</td>
<td>Imposed Curfew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expressed optimism</td>
<td>Arrested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreed to hold talks</td>
<td>Extreme Repression (deaths)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Praised Palestinians</td>
<td>Shot dead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expressed desire to cooperate</td>
<td>Fired missiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admitted mistake</td>
<td>Clashed with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral or Ambiguous</td>
<td>Raided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infighting over</td>
<td>Helicopter attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failed to reach agreement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host a visit</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Appealed for third party assistance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigating</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Actions by Israel
Israel Actions Toward Sub-State Actors

Years

Frequency of Actions

- Repressive Actions
- Neutral Actions
- Conciliatory Actions
Global Terrorism Database (GTD)

Origins of the GTD
  – “GTD1” 1970-1997 (PGIS/START)
  – 2008- (ISVG/START)

Sources
  – Pinkerton Global Intelligence Service (PGIS)
  – Newspapers/ Newswires
  – Radio/TV Transcripts
  – Terrorism Chronologies
  – State Department Reports
Definition of Terrorism

GTD1: “Acts by non-state actors involving the threatened or actual use of illegal force or violence to attain a political, economic, religious or social goal through fear, coercion or intimidation.”

GTD2:
- The incident must be intentional - the result of a conscious calculation on the part of a perpetrator.
- The incident must entail some level of violence (includes property violence) or the threat of violence.
- There must be sub-national perpetrators
  1) The act must be aimed at attaining a political, economic, religious, or social goal. In terms of economic goals, the exclusive pursuit of profit does not satisfy this criterion
  2) There must be evidence of an intention to coerce, intimidate, or convey some other message to a larger audience (or audiences) than the immediate victims.
  3) The action must be outside the context of legitimate warfare activities, i.e. the act must be outside the parameters permitted by international humanitarian law (particularly the admonition against deliberately targeting civilians or non-combatants).
So now we have independent and dependent variables...
Repressive Actions & Terrorism

Repressive Actions by Government and Terror Attacks

Year

Number of Repressive Actions

Number of Terror Attacks


0 50 100 150 200 250 300 350 400 450

0 50 100 150 200 250 300 350 400 450
Methods to Assessing Efficacy

• **Vector Autoregression**: multiple time series of different types of actions and terrorist attacks by different perpetrators.

• **Series Hazard Modeling**: Analysis of more discrete campaigns countering terrorism on the hazard of continued attacks.
Next Steps

• Complete data for remaining 4 countries
• Use original articles to collect more details about actions and to link them through campaigns.
  – Fill in the detail
• Extend data collection to 7 additional countries including more democracies.