Homeland Security Capstone:

Contrarian Approaches to Homeland Security

HLS685

Live Chat Session #5

- Main, Wed (*09/03/2014*); Responses, Sun (*09/07/2014*). In *400–600* words:
  - Examine the hypothesis that U.S. security would be more effective if efforts were focused more on the economic, social, political, and religious causes of terrorism than expending heavily in military, security, and law enforcement measures.
  - Examine the balance between security and individual rights established by the Constitution. Address:
    - Characterize the U.S. approach and measures to counterterrorism? How does it compare to the approach advocated by critics of security and military measures?
    - Is there an optimal balance between security and individual liberties? Are there options to minimize the encroachment of civil liberties?
    - Is there a way to develop an adaptive approach to security that includes an all-of-the-above strategy and optimizes security measures?

- *Against Security*, Molotch (Ch. 3, 6 & 7)
- *Liars and Outliers*, Schneier (Ch. 1, 10 & 15)
- *Charity and Security Network: Clinton Calls for Addressing Root Causes of Terrorism at UN Summit*, September 30, 2010, at:
  - http://www.charityandsecurity.org/news/Clinton_Calls_Addressing_Root_Causes_Terrorism_UN_Summit
- *The root causes of terrorism*, Cheema, at:
  - http://ipripak.org/articles/newspapers/rootcauses.shtml

- Historically, psychologists believed that terrorists were a product of mental disorders
  - Psychopathic Personality Disorder . . . Antisocial
  - Narcissistic-Rage Hypothesis . . . Often viewed as a lone wolf
- Psychological Assessment changed in the 1980s
  - Terrorism . . . sophistication, tactics, and coordination
- Terrorist organizations avoid people with mental disorders and schizophrenics
  - Psychologically unstable

Questions for Thought
- What is the motivation? How did some members of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) evolve into the Weather Underground?

- Attempt to explain terrorism in terms of social dynamics
- Frustration-Aggression Hypothesis
  - Studies have demonstrated that increased stress and frustration leads to increased violence.
    - "Under-privileged" more likely to commit acts of terrorism
  - Terrorist activity in response to the frustration
    - Political, Economic, and Social needs

> *If "under-privileged hypothesis is true, then why are so many terrorist from upper and middle class privileged families?*

- Negative-Identity Hypothesis
  - Failure to realize personal goals results in assumption of a "negative identity"
    - Negative identity leads to a rejection of prescribed societal roles
    - Feelings of rage and helplessness over the lack of alternatives

- Other reasons
  - Novelty, excitement
  - Idealism
    - Motives change over time and as a result of group dynamics
      - Group victimization

Responses by Hizballah members to an open-ended question concerning their membership to the group	
	Number of responses
Explained that they are not terrorists, or that their actions are not acts of terrorism	200
Stated that theirs and their victims' deaths are temporal (i.e. they will have an afterlife)	127
Wished that the researchers included questions about social reasons for their association with Hizballah, e.g. unemployment	9

- Multiple Marginality Theory
  - Convergence of marginalization factors . . . Social, political, economic, & psychological
    - Racial issues (Black Panthers), Economics (Algeria/Palestinian), etc.

- Societal Deprivation
  - Hinders social development . . . Black & White Reasoning
  - Terrorist causes and ideology do not serve as justification for their actions . . . They are the reason for their actions

- Relative Deprivation Theory
  - Rising expectations leads to deprivation and frustration
- The psychology of joining a terrorist group differs depending on the typology of the group
  - Not all terrorist groups the same
    - Remember the various typologies . . . Left/Right Wings, Religious, etc.
- Personal Pathway Model
  - Socialization
  - Narcissistic injuries
  - Escalatory events
  - Personal connections
    - Within risk population . . . Political activities may be consistent with family/community . . . Perceive family/community's lack of social action

- Pressure to Conform
  - Group Solidarity
    - Submerge personal identity . . . Total commitment
- Pressures to Commit Acts of Violence
  - Revolutionary Mindset
    - Action Oriented
      - Psychological climate within the group the greatest determinant
- Terrorist Rationalization of Violence
  - Cut off from external environment results in increasing rationalization for violence
    - **Frame Amplification** leads to **Frame Bridging/Transformation**
  - Moral anxiety from carnage lessened through focus on reaction from authorities

- Ideological or Religious Perception
  - Based on subjective interpretation of the world and events
    - Perspectives & Worldviews
    - Terrorists see themselves as symbols rather than individuals
  - Perception, particularly religious fundamentalism taps into a quite different political consciousness
    - Religious identity
    - No separation between private and political or social action

Questions?

Burch, J.A. (2007). *Capacity Building and Sustainment: Focusing on the End-State for Homeland Security* (Unpublished Master's Thesis). Naval Postgraduate School: Monterrey, California.

Bryson, J.M. (2004). *Strategic Planning for Public and Nonprofit Organizations*. San Francisco, CA: John Wiley & Sons.

Lincoln-Lancaster County Emergency Management (n.d.). Retrieved October 8, 2011 from the Lincoln-Lancaster County Emergency Management: http://lancaster.ne.gov/emergency/index.htm.