



The Etiology of Terror

The project initiates a research program to sort out the various explanations of international terrorism. In particular, the character of international terrorism has changed since the end of the Cold War (Enders and Sandler 2002), and while older explanations involving development level and inequality should be considered, newer tests involving religious and ethnic identity, the intrusion of Western values, globalization, state strength and the stability of civil society are needed. This research project will therefore consider the determinants of: (1) national shares of terrorists involved in international or transnational terrorism during the 1990s; and (2) national status as a 'terrorist haven' or 'rogue nation'. Both dependent variables can be constructed from existing data sources, and some of the more exotic causal variables (such as Westernization, globalization, conflict carrying capacity, and state strength) have been or are being created by the Pis as part of past Mershon and NSF-sponsored projects.

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