Chapter I

Introduction

Objectives of This Chapter

√ Learn more about recent terrorist atrocities.
√ Identify the main sponsors of global terrorism today.
√ Comprehend the link between diminished terrorist attacks over time and their need to create new venues/methods of global reach and devastation.
√ Understand the organizational link between terrorists and technology.
√ Begin to discover the importance of securing the global information infrastructure.
Terrorist Atrocities

Over the past decade, armed conflicts have occurred all over the world. In Algeria, Islamic groups have attacked key economic targets, officials, and foreigners. In Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood waged an insurgent’s war that has evolved to political participation as a direct result of a series of armed defeats by the government. Ongoing independence efforts by Indonesian islands, as well as religious conflicts between Christians and Muslims within Indonesia, continue to escalate. The most recent result in Indonesia is East Timor, newly formed in 1999 after many bloody conflicts resulting in high loss of life. India and Pakistan have been warring in Kashmir, and have nearly gone to nuclear war several times over this disputed region. As a result of Sharia law being implemented in Nigeria, violent clashes between Christians and Muslims continue to escalate. Last of these is the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, which has spawned a host of wars, bombings, and so-called regionalized violence that has been used to justify violence movements around the globe.

The most notable and horrific of these attacks in recent history was when al Qaeda hijackers flew jetliners into the World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon, and crashed a fourth plane in a Pennsylvania field, killing nearly 3,000 people in total and causing untold economic, political, and social damages. This single event on September 11th in 2001 triggered the War on Terror campaign, resulting in the removal of Taliban rule in Afghanistan, as well as a major shift in interventionist policies.

In 2002, terrorists continued their assaults on Western targets. The nightclub bombings in Bali, Indonesia by Jemaah Islamiyah (a group linked to al Qaeda) killed more than 180 people. In the same year, Chechen rebels held a Moscow theater, with hundreds of hostages in it, for 3 days. During efforts to rescue said hostages, more than 100 people were killed from the incapacitating gas used in the rescue. In Istanbul, Turkey, suicide bombers attacked the British consulate, an HSBC bank, and several synagogues, resulting in the injuring of hundreds and the deaths of more than 60 people. Those terrorist groups claiming responsibility are reported to have links to al Qaeda.

According to the U.S. State Department, in 2003, attacks occurred in Afghanistan, Algeria, Belgium, Chile, Columbia, Cuba, France, Greece, the Gaza Strip, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Somalia, Spain, Turkey, Venezuela, and the West Bank. These
Related Content

Thoughts for the Future
Andrew Colarik (2006). Cyber Terrorism: Political and Economic Implications (pp. 147-165).
www.irma-international.org/chapter/thoughts-future/7432/

The Role of Psychology in Understanding Online Trust
www.irma-international.org/chapter/the-role-of-psychology-in-understanding-online-trust/199885/

Cyber Forensics
Stéphane Coulondre (2007). Cyber Warfare and Cyber Terrorism (pp. 397-402).
www.irma-international.org/chapter/cyber-forensics/7478/

Influence Strategy: Consistency and Legitimacy as Key Factors
www.irma-international.org/article/influence-strategy-consistency-legitimacy-key/69770/

The Changing Face of Electronic Aggression: The Phenomenon of Online Trolling within the Context of e-Participation in the United Kingdom
www.irma-international.org/article/the-changing-face-of-electronic-aggression/127385/