

**World History
Terrorism
Assignment #11**

Directions: Read the brief description of Terrorism that follows the questions, below. Please do all the work below on a separate sheet of paper, and be sure to use complete sentences in your definitions and answers.

Grading Rubric for Short-Answer Questions

<i>Default Grade</i>	<i>0</i>
Clear, identifiable, and plausible answer to question	F
Uses appropriate and specific evidence/examples	+1 letter grade
Explains and analyzes the evidence/examples	+1 letter grade
Appropriate length of response (short paragraph), vocabulary, grammar & spelling	+1 letter grade
Historically accurate answer	+1 letter grade

Answer each of the following questions.

1. Why is it difficult to come up with a clear definition of “terrorism”?
2. Why is terrorism relatively common throughout history, and even today?
3. Each person in class has been assigned one of the following famous historical events, and a famous historical organization to **research**. Answer the following details:
 - a. Do you think the event an act of terrorism? Explain *why* or *why not*.
 - b. Do you think the organization was a terrorist organization? Explain *why* or *why not*.

	Historical Event	Organization
Aedan, Aidan, Angie, Arnav, Ayiana, Brandon	1993 Bombay Bombings	Glenanne Gang
Brianna, Cole, Dennis, Denzel, Drew, Emily	1995 Oklahoma City	Irgun
Emmanuel, Erin, Gavin, Haylee, Izzy	No Gun Ri Massacre	Earth Liberation Front
Jacob, Jaeli, James, Jasmin, Jen	My Lai Massacre	Shining Path
Jenna, Jhon, Jonah, Jordan, Jorge	1995 Aum Shinrikyo	ETA (Basque)
Julie, Junga, Katie, Kidd (Anthony)	Assassination of Pres. McKinley	Ku Klux Klan
Luis, Marta, Mary, Mateusz, Max, Musa	2007 Samjhauta Express	Phineas Priesthood
Nick, Owen, Pags (Chris), Rado	1920 Wall Street Bombing	Occupy Wall Street
Rythm, Rowan, Sara, Savanna, Sean	1979 Grand Mosque Seizure	Sovereign Citizens
Shannon, Shiva, Siva, Sophia, Steven, Valeria	Pan Am Flight 103	969 Movement

Bonus: Why might most Americans be focused so much on *Muslim* terrorists, when terrorism is quite widespread and can be found in nearly all religions and in nearly all nations?

What is Terrorism?

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1. What is terrorism?

Terrorism is hard to define. In its broadest sense terrorism can be thought of as the use or threatened use of force against civilians (non-military) designed to bring about political or social change. Moreover, while we tend to think of terrorism as being both a political *and* irrational act (especially suicide terrorism), terrorism can also be thought of as rational, done specifically because of the impact -- fear, confusion, submission -- it will have.

Given the U.S. government's pledge to wage a war against terrorism, it is important to look at its definitions. According to both the Department of Defense (DOD) and the FBI, terrorism is "the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives." The DOD definition adds that a goal of terrorism can be generating fear, while the State Department is more elaborate, specifying that terrorism may include the use of biological, chemical or nuclear devices as well as the act of "assassination."

That second definition suggests that, according to the US government, the US assassination of Osama bin Laden was a terrorist act, and that the US use of nuclear weapons to end World War II and chemical weapons in Vietnam were also terrorist activities.

This is the grand struggle in defining terrorism; it is very difficult to separate it from horrible acts of war, just or unjust. We all have heard the saying, "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter." And indeed, Osama bin Laden and his comrades were hailed as freedom fighters in the 1980s... by none other than the American government. The US government has also considered individuals like Martin Luther King, Jr and Nelson Mandela to be terrorists.

Further, the United Nations definition of terrorism states that "all war crimes will be considered acts of terrorism," in which case virtually every government in the world (especially America, Europe, China, the major Muslim states, and most Latin American governments) have committed terrorism, though few have ever faced justice or even criticism for doing so.

2. What is the history of terrorism?

The first recorded use of "terrorism" and "terrorist" was in 1795, relating to the Reign of Terror instituted by the French government. The use of "terrorist" to signify anti-government activities was recorded in 1866 referring to Ireland, and in 1883 referring to Russia.

Throughout history humans have terrorized their neighbors to generate fear and compel changes in behavior. At the dawn of China's imperial age (1100 BCE), T'ai Kung, the first Chinese general and

master of strategic thought, described the "spreading of civil offensives" to demoralize the populace and incapacitate the government.

In the modern period, all regular armies have recruited "irregulars" to do their dirty work: Cossacks, Jaegers, Hussars, all were used to draw a civilized veil over the actions of their sponsors as they raped and pillaged in towns and across countrysides. Ironically, Ivan the First of Russia had to later subdue the very Cossacks he used to pacify the Muslim regions of Russia; today the U.S. is forced to subdue the Muslims organizations we used earlier to fight against Russia.

Today terrorism must be viewed within the context of the modern nation-state. Indeed, it was the rise of strong national governments, which could not be destroyed by the death of one leader or the destruction of a single dynasty that forced terrorists to widen their scope – they needed to create a public atmosphere of anxiety in order to undermine confidence in such a government. This reality is at the heart of the terrorism of the last 100 years, from anarchists' assassinations to hijackings and suicide bombings.

3. Who and where are terrorists today?

According to the U.S. State Department, there are at least 45 terrorist groups outside the United States. Currently, at least seven "rogue states" -- Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Sudan, North Korea, Cuba and Afghanistan -- are accused by the U.S. of "supporting terrorism."

But the label of who is and isn't a terrorist is still fuzzy. Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat was a terrorist, and later wasn't. Jerry Adams of Ireland's Sinn Fein and Nelson Mandela of South Africa were terrorists, until they became statesmen. Martin Luther King, Jr was a terrorist, and now has a national holiday celebrating the very goals and activities that led to his being labeled a terrorist.

In the 1970s, two thirds of the countries that used torture and terrorism were allies of the United States. Moreover, almost every Middle Eastern government, including our strongest allies (such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt), engage in government-sponsored terrorism against its people or its neighbors.

Based on <http://academic.udayton.edu/race/06hrights/WaronTerrorism/terrorism02.htm>