

## Question 2: What is 'New Terrorism'?

Many scholars, government analysts and politicians point out that since the mid-1990s 'terrorism' has changed into an inherently new form, so-called 'New Terrorism'. This, allegedly involves different actors, motivations, aims, tactics and actions, compared to the 'old' concept of terrorism used in the mid-twentieth century. This lecture places New Terrorism within the historical waves of terror experienced in the past, analyses the key claims of the New Terrorism thesis and queries whether it really is fundamentally different to the terrorism experiences in the past.

### *Discussion questions*

1. Do you agree with the New Terrorism thesis? Why?
2. What does Rapoport's Four Waves theory tell us about terrorism?
3. What are the policy implications of the New Terrorism thesis?

### *Essential readings*

- Kurtulus, Ersun N. 2011. "The 'New Terrorism' and Its Critics." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 34 (6): 476–500.
- Zarakol, Ayse. 2011. "What Makes Terrorism Modern? Terrorism, Legitimacy, and the International System." *Review of International Studies* 37 (5): 2311–36.

### *Further readings*

- Arquilla, John, and David Ronfeldt. 1999. "The Advent of Netwar: Analytic Background." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 22 (3): 193–206.
- Duyvesteyn, Isabelle. 2004. "How New Is the New Terrorism?" *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 27 (5): 439–54.
- Field, Antony. 2009. "The 'New Terrorism': Revolution or Evolution?" *Political Studies Review* 7 (2): 195–207.
- Gofas, Andreas. 2012. "'Old' vs. 'New' Terrorism: What's in a Name?" *Uluslararası İlişkiler / International Relations* 8 (32): 17–32.
- Hoffman, Bruce. 2001. "Change and Continuity in Terrorism." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 24 (5): 417–28.
- Lynch, Orla, and Christopher Ryder. 2012. "Deadliness, Organisational Change and Suicide Attacks: Understanding the Assumptions Inherent in the Use of the Term 'New Terrorism.'" *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 5 (2): 257–275.
- Sedgwick, Mark. 2007. "Inspiration and the Origins of Global Waves of Terrorism." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 30 (2): 97–112.
- Spencer, Alexander. 2011. "Sic[k] of the 'New Terrorism' Debate? A Response to Our Critics." *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 4 (3): 459–67.

### *Non-peer reviewed resources*

- Newsome, Bruce. 2017. "Why the Latest Wave of Terrorism Will Get Worse before It Gets Better." *The Conversation*, June 22, 2017. <https://theconversation.com/why-the-latest-wave-of-terrorism-will-get-worse-before-it-gets-better-78966>.
- Lesser, Ian O., Bruce Hoffman, John Arquilla, David Ronfeldt, Michele Zanini, and Brian Michael Jenkins. 1999. "Countering the New Terrorism" Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation. [https://www.rand.org/pubs/monograph\\_reports/MR989.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/monograph_reports/MR989.html).
- "New Terrorism Threats and Counterterrorism Strategies," New York University, June 23, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n26fxZkbF7c>.
- "New" vs. "Old" Terrorism," [Woodrow Wilson Center](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QO36E03o5VE&t=58s), August 16, 2013. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QO36E03o5VE&t=58s>
- "Terrorism Waves: A Conversation with David Rapoport." Terrorism 360. A podcast with Gary Lafree, <https://soundcloud.com/user-823068075/epi-8-terrorism-waves-a-conversation-with-david-rapoport>.
- Wright, Robin. 2017. "How Different—and Dangerous—Is Terrorism Today?" *The New Yorker*, July 5, 2017. <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/how-different-and-dangerous-is-terrorism-today>.