

Question 6: Lone wolf and home-grown terrorists: What is there to know?

In the last decade the threat of the so-called lonewolf and homegrown terrorists has increased in Western societies with perpetrators emerging both from the Salafi-Jihadi and the Far-Right extremist milieus. This lecture explains what the difference between the two terms is, whether there are specific risk factors for each category, and whether there is a 'linear' path for these individuals to be radicalised.

Discussion questions

1. What is the difference between lonewolf and homegrown terrorists?
2. What root-cause or risk factors best explain who is more likely to become a lonewolf or a homegrown terrorist?
3. Mosque and the internet are the key places where individuals are radicalised. Discuss using examples

Essential readings

- Feldman, Matthew. 2013. "Comparative Lone Wolf Terrorism: Toward a Heuristic Definition." *Democracy and Security* 9 (3): 270–86.
- Mullins, Sam. 2010. "Home-Grown Terrorism: Issues and Implications." *Perspectives on Terrorism* 1 (3): 1-10.

Further readings

- Bouhana, Noémie, Emily Corner, Paul Gill, and Bart Schuurman. 2018. "Background and Preparatory Behaviours of Right-Wing Extremist Lone Actors: A Comparative Study." *Perspectives on Terrorism* 12 (6): 150–63.
- Danzell, Orlandrew E., and Lisandra M. Maisonet Montañez. 2016. "Understanding the Lone Wolf Terror Phenomena: Assessing Current Profiles." *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression* 8 (2): 135–59.
- Harris-Hogan, Shandon, and Kate Barrelle. 2018. "Young Blood: Understanding the Emergence of a New Cohort of Australian Jihadists." *Terrorism and Political Violence*, June, 1–22.
- Kirby, Aidan. 2007. "The London Bombers as 'Self-Starters': A Case Study in Indigenous Radicalization and the Emergence of Autonomous Cliques." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 30 (5): 415–28.
- Michael, George. 2012. "Leaderless Resistance: The New Face of Terrorism." *Defence Studies* 12 (2): 257–82.
- Pantucci, Raffaello. 2011. "What Have We Learned about Lone Wolves from Anders Behring Breivik?" *Perspectives on Terrorism* 5 (5–6).
- Spaaij, Ramón, and Mark S. Hamm. 2015. "Key Issues and Research Agendas in Lone Wolf Terrorism." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 38 (3): 167–78.
- Zekulin, Michael. 2016. "Endgames: Improving Our Understanding of Homegrown Terrorism." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 39 (1): 46–66.

Non-peer reviewed resources

- Borum, Randy. 2016. "What Drives Lone Offenders?" *The Conversation*, September 27, 2016. <https://theconversation.com/what-drives-lone-offenders-62745>.
- Cottee, Simon. 2016. "The Jihad Will Be Televised: The Sinister Narcissism of ISIS and Its LoneWolf Emulators." *The Atlantic*, 2016. <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/06/terrorism-execution-film/489152/>.
- "Gill, Paul: 'Lone Actor' Terrorism", Department of War Studies, King's College London, <https://soundcloud.com/warstudies/dr-paul-gill-lone-actor-terrorism>, 15 July 2015.
- Hofman, David (2018). "Questioning the "Loneliness" of Lone-Wolves: A Social Network Analysis of Lone-Wolf Terrorists. Presented at the 2018 Atlantic Security Conference, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EQjS7Lz3V4>
- "Homegrown Terror Risks Examined", *PBSNewshour*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-ZIg8gebOE>, June 7, 2010.
- Poppe, Katharine. 2018. "Nidal Hasan: A Case Study in Lone Actor Terrorism." Washington: George Washington University. <https://extremism.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs2191/f/Nidal%20Hasan.pdf>.
- Ravndal, Jacob Aasland. 2012. "A Post-Trial Profile of Anders Behring Breivik." *CTC Sentinel* 5 (10).
- Roy, Olivier. 2017. "Who Are the New Jihadis?" *The Guardian*, April 13, 2017. <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2017/apr/13/who-are-the-new-jihadis>.
- "Terror In Brussels", *SkyNews*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijiw7NwusMw&t=29s>, March 29, 2016.